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THE

PICTURE OF ENGLAND.

VOL. II.

THE

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OR,

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE

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OF THE

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VOL. II.

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SELECT TOPOGRAPHY.

MIDDLESEX.

THIS county, although comparatively of small extent, is of superior interest with the topographer, on account of its vicinity to the metropolis, and the numerous splendid mansions with which it is consequently adorned.

Middlesex is in shape very irregular, but, on the whole, approaches to that of the quadrangle. On the northern side it is bounded by Hertfordshire. On the west it is divided from Buckinghamshire by the river Colne; and on the east from Essex by the river Lea. On the south it is separated from Surrey by an imaginary line proceeding along the middle of the Thames. Its greatest extent, from east to west, is about twenty-three miles; and its greatest breadth, from north to south, rather more than seventeen.

31 X 65

The surface is, in general, finely varied. The hills of Hampstead, Highgate, and Muswell, protect the metropolis from the chill winds of the north; and an extensive ridge of elevations proceeds from Stanmore to the vicinity of Enfield, the average height being about 400 feet above the level of the Thames. Harrow Hill, detached from this ridge, and rising with a curious insulated character, is a prominent land-mark for many miles round, and affords views at once extensive, various, and rich.

A great part of the land in the vicinity of London is occupied by gardeners, who cultivate vegetables and fruit for the supply of the London markets. The eastern part of the county, as regards farming purposes, is chiefly used as meadow and pasture land. The western division, also, contains some good meadow-land, but is principally under arable cultivation.

The manufactures cultivated in this county are equally numerous and important. The demands of the metropolis may, indeed, be readily supposed to excite great efforts of industry and talent in every contiguous district. It has been justly observed, that "London is the grand mart for every possible "variety of article, both of elegance and use; and "there is scarcely a single object in demand (of "British make), but what is either manufactured "within it, or within the direct vortex of its influ-"ence."

The principal rivers connected with Middlesex are the Thames, the Colne, the Brent, the Cran, the Lea, and the artificial stream termed the New River. The importance of the Thames will be justly appreciated, without any explanatory remarks in the present page. It is well known that the majestic waters of this river convey to the port of London rich freights of merchandize from every quarter of the globe; and the commercial facilities of the "great emporium of trade" have recently experienced an augmentation, through the construction of docks, unequalled in extent, and other judicious improvements of the port.

Viewing this river as an appendage to the *County of Middlesex*, it may be necessary to remark, that its clear and broad waters are not less the source of convenience than of beauty. Middlesex in no part displays so much of the picturesque as in the districts bordering on the Thames. Between London and Richmond the multifarious objects on the banks of the river emerge gradually from the smoke and noise of manufacture and traffic to the softest charms of pastoral scenery. When Richmond is passed, a scene of unspeakable beauty rises on the view; not less adorned by nature than enriched by art. The aquatic villas are here numerous; and to almost every mansion is attached a story of high interest; —for hither statesmen and poets, the pride of past ages, retired to enjoy dignified seclusion. Farther

towards the south arise the turrets of Hampton, now deserted by royalty, but the emphatic memorials of several important passages in history.

It will scarcely be expected that in a work so comprehensive as the present, we should enter on a description of the vast METROPOLIS of the British Empire. A theme so prolific could be satisfactorily discussed only in a separate volume. Indeed, so closely blended with London are many of those thick nests of buildings, usually termed "villages," which engross a great part of the population of Middlesex, that we must necessarily restrain our attention to such prominent objects in the county as are conspicuous for historical interest and architectural splendour; or are deserving to be known, as depositories of works in the fine arts.

The village of CHELSEA, [130] now almost incorporated with the south-western extremity of London, is, in its more ancient part, agreeably situated on the bank of the river Thames. Amongst the memorable events connected with this place, it will not be forgotten that the learned and great Sir Thomas More had here a residence; but the mansion distinguished as his abode has long since been levelled with the ground, and a crowd of modern buildings is now erected upon the site. Here was, also, a manor-house belonging to King Henry the Eighth, in which Queen Elizabeth passed some of her juvenile years. This structure, with many alte-

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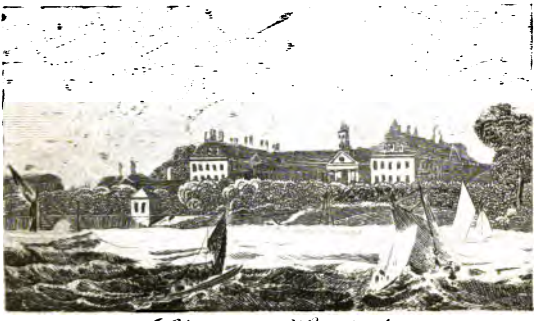
Chelsea.

131



Chelsea Hospital.

132

Fulham Bridge.

rations and additions, was afterwards occupied by Sir Hans Sloane, who accumulated here that noble collection of natural and artificial curiosities which he bequeathed to the public upon certain conditions, and which now forms the basis of the British Museum.

But the great interest of Chelsea proceeds from the *Royal Hospital* [131] for the reception of wounded and superannuated soldiers. This noble institution was founded by King Charles the Second, in the year 1682. The buildings were erected under the care of Sir Christopher Wren, and are, perhaps, better suited to their destined purpose than those of the Naval Hospital at Greenwich, because they are less magnificent. In regard to general character, they may be described as being solid, commanding, and of elevated proportions. The whole structure is composed of brick, with ornamental finishings of free-stone, and consists of three courts, the principal of which is open on the south side towards the river. The dining-hall and chapel are each 110 feet in length, and 30 in width; and are at once massy and simple in their architectural arrangement. The entire length of the principal buildings, as they extend from east to west, is 790 feet; and the whole of the premises comprehend about 50 acres. The in-pensioners are in number 476, and are lodged in sixteen wards. There is, also, an unlimited number of out-pensioners. A

Royal Military Asylum, for the education and support of the children of deceased or impoverished soldiers, has been lately added to this most honourable national establishment.

At a short distance from Chelsea, and situated also on the banks of the river Thames, is the village of FULHAM. At this place is a palace, or manor-house, which has constituted, from a very early period, the summer-residence of the Bishops of London. The present building is composed of brick, and is a commodious rather than an elegant structure. The gardens are much celebrated for a fine collection of rare plants. The *Parish Church* stands near the water-side, and is a spacious stone building, but not conspicuous for architectural beauty. The interior contains numerous monuments; and in the churchyard are the interesting funeral-memorials of several learned and excellent bishops of the metropolitan see. A communication is opened between the villages of Fulham and Putney, by means of a Bridge [132] thrown over the river Thames. This structure is composed of wood, and was erected in the year 1729, at the expense of rather more than £28,000.

Proceeding northward in an investigation of the most attractive spots in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, we next arrive at KENSINGTON, [133] a village enriched with a Royal Palace, in which several successive sovereigns held their court.

Kensington Palace.

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Holland House.

135

Caen Wood.

The palace of Kensington is an irregular pile, chiefly built by King William the Third, but considerably altered and enlarged by succeeding monarchs. The structure is composed of brick, but is of so dull and homely a character, that the spectator would scarcely suppose the edifice to be designed for a regal dwelling. The interior is spacious, but only few of the state-apartments are of commanding or pleasing proportions. Little, indeed, within the walls of this palace evinces the due splendour of royalty, except the collection of paintings, which is very extensive and truly valuable. It will be recollected that the ill-fated King Charles the First spared no expense in procuring the best works of the most celebrated masters; and many of the pictures formerly possessed by that sovereign, enrich the collections now preserved in this and other royal palaces of England.

Kensington Palace was the favourite residence of King William the Third, and succeeding sovereigns, until the present reign; and all those royal personages, with the exception of George the First (who died whilst travelling towards Hanover) here drew their last breath. The gardens attached to the palace are about three miles and a half in circumference, and are in many parts laid out with great taste and judgment. They form a fine ornament to the western border of the metropolis, and

are well known to be used as a fashionable promenade during the summer months.

At a short distance from Kensington, towards the west, is HOLLAND HOUSE [134]. This fine and venerable specimen of the style in domestic architecture which prevailed in the early part of the seventeenth century, was chiefly erected by Sir Walter Cope, about the year 1607. An idea respecting the form of building may be familiarly conveyed by observing that the ground-plan resembles, in outline, one half of the letter H. The material is brick, with embellishments of stone and stucco.

The House acquires its present name from Henry Rich, Earl of Holland, who obtained the property by marriage with the daughter of Sir Walter Cope. In the year 1716, this mansion became the residence of ADDISON, in consequence of the marriage of that amiable man and elegant writer with Charlotte, Countess Dowager of Warwick and Holland. We regret to state that his dignified retirement was clouded by family disquietude. His lady proved a mere woman of quality with a pleasing person. Accustomed to exact homage, she felt hurt by her husband's superiority of understanding, and opposed to his mental excellence the claims of her rank, title, and connexions. The heart of Addison was not framed to rest upon so frivolous a bosom. Disappointed in his fondest hopes, he tacitly in-

voked the progress of disease by dejection of mind, and sunk to death, with too little earthly consolation, on the 17th of June, 1719. The room in which he expired is a large, but rather gloomy, chamber, at the western extremity of the chief, or central, division of the building.

This mansion became the property of the Right Hon. Henry Fox (shortly after created Lord Holland) about the year 1762; and has since constituted the principal seat of his descendants. The late celebrated statesman, Charles James Fox, son of the first Lord Holland of the Fox family, passed his early years in this interesting residence, and was a frequent visitor in his declining days. The *Library* is a noble apartment, 109 feet in length, and contains many valuable portraits, chiefly of persons distinguished in the last century. Several fine portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds are preserved in other apartments.

The village of HAMPSTEAD is distant from London four miles, on the north-west. The principal buildings are seated on an eminence, about 400 feet above the level of the river Thames. The sanative and bracing air of this upland village, renders it a desirable place of retirement for those who have sacrificed health in the busy and seductive circles of the neighbouring city. Many of the springs in this vicinity possess ferruginous qualities, and the *Wells* of Hampstead attained considerable

celebrity in the early part of the last century. These are now entirely deserted, but the fashionable notice which they formerly attracted conduced much to the augmentation and improvement of the village.

Hampstead Heath consists of a large tract of common land, of little value in the opinion of the farmer, but abounding in picturesque scenery. It is said that Langdon Hill, in Essex, not less than sixty miles distant, towards the east, may be distinguished from this elevated heath.

The Parish Church of Hampstead is a brick structure, erected between the years 1745 and 1747, on the site of an ancient edifice. The building possesses little beauty; and it is remarkable that the tower is placed at the *east end*. The interior is commodious, and contains several handsome monuments.

Between the lofty hills of Hampstead and Highgate, which assist in forming a natural screen for the metropolis on its northern side, is CANE OR KEN WOOD, [135] the seat of the Earl of Mansfield. This beautiful mansion is in the Ionic order of architecture, and was principally erected by the late Earl of Mansfield, under the successive direction of the two able architects, Adam and Saunders. The exterior possesses a temperance of grandeur truly admirable; and the principal apartments are superb without ostentation. Few man-

sions in the immediate neighbourhood of London display so much correctness of taste, and evince the exercise of affluence with such judicious moderation. Some interesting pictures embellish the chief rooms, amongst which are a fine portrait of the first Earl of Mansfield; an original of Alexander Pope, presented by him to the first Earl, when Mr. Murray; and the celebrated head of Betterton, said to be painted by Pope. The extensive grounds attached to this seat are equally rich in circumstances of natural beauty and artificial decoration.

The village of HORNSEY retains a degree of rural character unusual with the environs of the metropolis. The surrounding country is rendered attractive by soft ranges of hills; and the New River, which winds in a desultory progress through this parish, is at many points greatly favourable to picturesque effect. The Bishops of London had a palace near this place in ancient times, no remains of which, except some traces of earth-work, are now observable. The parish church is a plain structure, composed of stone, and appears to have been erected about the year 1500.

HIGHGATE, a populous hamlet, chiefly situated in the parish of Hornsey, is supposed to take its name from a *toll-gate* on the most elevated part of the abrupt hill on which the village is placed. The steep acclivity of Highgate-hill appears to have deterred the citizens of London from the construc-

tion of numerous modern villas; but here are many substantial dwellings, erected early in the last century.

At a house in this village, belonging to the Earl of Arundel, died, on the 19th of April, 1626, that great luminary of science, the Lord Chancellor Bacon, whose place of interment we have noticed in our account of Hertfordshire. His lordship experienced a chill, from the effect of snow, whilst trying a philosophical experiment in this neighbourhood. Unable to return to his residence in London, he repaired to the house of his friend, the Earl of Arundel; and his rank demanding particular attention, he was placed in the state-bed, which had not been used for many months. The dampness of this bed of state accelerated the progress of his disorder, and he died within three days.

The steep ascent of Highgate-hill has long been considered a serious obstruction to the traffic of the northern road; and, in the year 1809, a subterraneous tunnel was commenced, branching off, on the right of the ancient thoroughfare, through the substance of the hill. The whole of the excavated works fell, with a tremendous crash, on the 13th of April, 1812; but happily without destroying any of the labourers. An open road is now cut on the direct line of the intended tunnel, which is crossed by an archway, about 36 feet high, and 18 feet in width.

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Stepney Church.

138

Chiswick.

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Twyford Abbey.

ISLINGTON, which was described in the 17th century as "a pleasant country-town," separated from the capital by numerous fields and meadows, is now distinct from London chiefly in name; since a continuation of buildings, on nearly every side, produces an absolute union between the village and the city. Similar in character are all those combinations of dwellings, formerly termed villages, which extend along the confines of London to its eastern extremity. We, therefore, consign these intermediate places to those who describe the metropolis, and conduct the reader to STEPNEY, [*135] which has attained some antiquarian and literary celebrity, on account of its *Parochial Church.*

This capacious structure is composed of intermingled stone and flint, and was chiefly erected in the 14th century. The interior contains numerous monuments, amongst which are several to persons of considerable interest. The funeral inscriptions in the *church-yard* of Stepney have attained much notoriety, on account of some remarks presented by the authors of the *Spectator.* In those observations we find a delicate satire respecting the levity too frequently occurring in the inscriptions on tomb-stones. The first epitaph noticed by the writers of the Spectator commences with these lines:—

"Here Thomas Saffin lies interr'd, *ah why?*
"Born in New England, did in London die!"

The second, observes the satirical author of the Spectator, is "something light, but nervous":—

> "Here lies the body of Daniel Saul,
> "Spitalfields weaver—and that's all!"

We must not quit Stepney without observing, that *Dean Colet*, founder of St. Paul's School, was some time vicar of this parish, and possessed a house (then deemed a spot of rural retirement) in the hamlet of Ratcliffe. Dr. Colet gave this country residence to the head master of St. Paul's School; and the site is now occupied by two handsome dwellings, termed *Colet Place*. On the front is a bust of the learned and benevolent Dean.

Having thus noticed, in a progress from west to east, some of the principal villages which form the borders of the metropolis, we proceed to a consideration of other important objects in this populous county.

Brentford is considered the county-town, as the elections for Middlesex are now held at this place. The domestic buildings are chiefly situated on the sides of the great western road, and the town has few attractions for any other than persons engaged in trade, who derive considerable benefit from a situation on so important a thoroughfare. This place is noticed in history as the theatre of a conflict between Edmund, surnamed Ironside, and the Danes, in the year 1016; in which the

northern invaders were defeated, with considerable loss. A battle was also fought here, in the year 1642, between some of the royal troops and several regiments in the service of the Parliament. The latter engagement was not of an important or decisive character, but it appears to be unquestionable that the King's party obtained the advantage.

The village of ISLEWORTH [136] is situated on the border of the river Thames, at the distance of eight miles and a half from the western termination of London. In this parish, although the grounds and principal entrance are contiguous to the high western road, in the vicinity of Brentford, is SION-HOUSE, [137] the magnificent seat of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland. This noble building, which is inferior only to the royal palaces of Middlesex, derives its name from a convent of Bridgetines, founded by King Henry the Fifth, in the year 1414. The site of the monastery was granted by Edward the Sixth to the Protector, Somerset; and that potent nobleman commenced, on the ruins of the monastic house, the splendid pile which has long been a seat of the Northumberland family.

On the attainder of the Duke of Somerset, this mansion was granted to John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, whose son, the Lord Guildford Dudley, married Lady Jane Grey. It was here that the ill-fated Lady Jane reluctantly accepted

the celebrated Earl of Burlington. The plan of the building is partly taken from a work of Palladio,—the villa of the Marquis Capra, near Vicenza, which has been imitated in several other English mansions. This house, as left by Lord Burlington, was designed as a model of architectural taste, rather than as a convenient place of residence. Two wings were afterwards added, under the direction of the late Mr. Wyatt; and these desirably assist in forming a principal suite of apartments, adequate to the purposes of noble hospitality.

The central division (which comprises the whole of Lord Burlington's design) is crowned by an octangular dome; and the entrance is by two flights of stone steps. The portico is supported by six fluted columns of the Corinthian order, the architrave and other embellishments being of the richest possible character. On one side of the double flight of steps is a statue of Palladio, and on the other a statue of Inigo Jones.

The interior displays many delicacies of architectural refinement; but the part erected by the Earl of Burlington is merely designed as a model of symmetry, and an instance of the elegant effect to be produced by a rigid adherence to rules. Domestic comfort, according to the English standard, has met with no attention. The *gallery* occupies the whole northern side of the original edifice, and is a superb specimen of the Italian style of

arrangement. The ceiling and sides are very richly ornamented in stucco. The plenitude of architectural ornaments in each division admits of space for only few pictures, but the interspersed statues and vases are numerous.

Although the gallery contains few efforts of the pencil, the collection of pictures in other apartments is extensive, yet select, and highly worthy of deliberate examination. This valuable assemblage of paintings was chiefly formed by the Earl of Burlington. It may not be superfluous to observe, that a permission to view this elegant house, and the works of art which it contains, is politely granted, on application to the Duke of Devonshire; but is not to be procured by any other means than a request personally addressed to his Grace.

The *gardens* attached to Chiswick House were laid out by the Earl of Burlington, in the Italian style, with a redundancy of statues, vases, and other sculptural embellishments. Judicious improvements have lately been effected, in a mode less offensive to the simplicity of nature; but the prevailing character of the grounds, as connected with artificial embellishment, is still rather curious than beautiful. We must not quit Chiswick House without observing, that the late eminent statesman, the Right Hon. C. J. Fox, here breathed his last, in September 1806.

The village of TWICKENHAM is agreeably seated on the margin of the Thames, at the distance of rather more than ten miles from London. The banks of the great English river are particularly beautiful in this neighbourhood. The Thames here flows in its happiest vein; broad, gentle, and lucid. Nature and art unite to render the scenery attractive; and at various points of the Middlesex shore we find mansions admirable for elegance of construction, or still more interesting, from a former connexion with men whose names adorn the historic pages of our country.

We are, indeed, upon classic ground. Within the boundaries of Twickenham Park, near Richmond Bridge, there stood formerly a house occupied by the great Lord Verulam, during his early years. Here he examined nature in philosophical leisure, and formed the design of many of those literary works which have immortalized his powers of mind. But the spot most highly illustrated by anecdote, and of most ready association with our familiar remembrances, is that rendered sacred in the esteem of the tasteful, by the former residence of ALEXANDER POPE. [139.] This elegant poet purchased an estate at Twickenham in the year 1715, and resided here throughout the remainder of his life. Within the walls of the same villa that had witnessed his rise in literary fame, he died, on the 30th of May, 1744.

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Pope's House, Twickenham.

140

Strawberry Hill.

142

Osterly House.

The house in which he lived was not large, but was sufficiently commodious for the uses of an English gentleman, whose friends visited *himself* rather than his *dwelling*, and were superior to the necessity of stately ceremonials. Here Pope wrote most of those poems and letters which have communicated to English versification so great a portion of its harmony, and to the general stock of literature so many elegant ideas. In the sequestered shade of this retirement, "near Thames' translucent wave," he entertained Swift, Gay, Lord Bolingbroke, and other bright men of a past age, who

> "—— mingled with the friendly bowl,
> "The feast of reason and the flow of soul."

After the death of Pope, this interesting estate was sold to Sir William Stanhope, and was subsequently in the possession of Lord Mendip, who carefully preserved every vestige connected with a residence so justly celebrated. In the year 1807, the premises were purchased by the Baroness Howe; and we regret to state, that this lady has caused the house in which the poet lived to be entirely taken down. A new dwelling, preferable in the esteem of her ladyship, chiefly, as we suppose, because it *is new*, has been erected, at the distance of about one hundred yards from the site of Pope's House. In the annexed engraving we

present a view of the original building, enlarged by two wings, which were added by Sir William Stanhope.

STRAWBERRY HILL, [140] the far-famed villa of the late Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, is situated near the river Thames, at the distance of about half a mile from the village of Twickenham. The building was erected by his Lordship at different times, in imitation of the ancient English style of architecture, and greatly assisted in introducing that passion for the "Gothic" which now so generally prevails. A very correct taste is displayed in the design; but the structure is far from being of a substantial character. The walls are slight, and covered with rough-cast, whilst the coping of the battlement, and the aspiring pinnacles, are composed of wood. The whole is an architectural toy, but of so elegant a description, that we must sincerely lament its inevitable want of durability.

The interior is arranged in a strict accordance with the ancient English character displayed on the outside of the building. The ceilings, screens, niches, and other circumstances of decoration, are on the model of beautiful specimens contained in cathedrals, chapels, and other costly labours of remote ages. The collection of pictures, antiques, and miscellaneous curiosities, is truly interesting, and has been long celebrated amongst connoisseurs

and antiquarians. It was progressively made by Lord Orford, during the affluent leisure of a long life. Although his lordship was always too poor for the calls of generosity, he never wanted money for the purchase of a fine picture or rare antique, whatever might be the sum at which it was estimated. The great bulk of this collection was formed, at a vast expense, out of the spoils of many renowned cabinets, including those of Dr. Mead, Lady Elizabeth Germaine, Lord Oxford, and the Duchess of Portland. The most valuable part consists of portraits of remarkable persons, comprehending a superb collection of miniatures and enamels. The works of Holbein are numerous; and there are some small, but exquisite, specimens of ancient sculpture. Strawberry Hill is now the residence of the Countess Dowager Waldegrave.

The *Parish Church* of *Twickenham* is situated near the river Thames, and contains several interesting monuments; amongst which must be noticed that of Alexander Pope. The following lines form part of the inscription on his funeral memorial:—

"For one who would not be buried in Westminster Abbey.

"Heroes and Kings, your distance keep,
"In peace let one poor poet sleep;
"Who never flatter'd folks like you,
"Let Horace blush, and Virgil too."

The Royal Palace of HAMPTON COURT [141] is situated on the northern border of the river Thames, at the distance of thirteen miles and a half from the metropolis. On this spot, that "great child of honour," Cardinal Wolsey, constructed a mansion of a more splendid character than had previously been witnessed in England. The building comprehended five courts, and the interior was so capacious, that the apartments are said to have been provided with two hundred and eighty beds for visitors of superior rank.

This noble mansion appears to have excited a feeling of jealous discontent in the bosom of King Henry the Eighth; and the Cardinal averted further danger, by presenting it to the monarch. The palace thus acquired by the crown, has constituted the occasional residence of most succeeding sovereigns; but has not, at any period, been inhabited by his present Majesty. King William was particularly attached to this spot; the watery flatness of the surrounding scenery reminding him of his native country; and, under the auspices of this sovereign and his consort, the greater part of Wolsey's pile was taken down, and the present magnificent edifice erected in its place.

The modern buildings of Hampton Court comprehend the great eastern and southern fronts, and the whole of the state apartments contained in those divisions. The work was begun in 1690,

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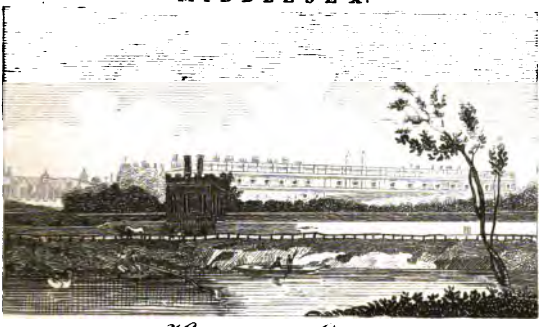

Hampton Court.

* 141

Delaford Park.

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Stanmore House.

and the whole was completed in 1694, after the designs of Sir Christopher Wren.

The *Grand Front towards the East* is about 330 feet in extent, and is formed of brick, of a bright red hue, with numerous decorations of stone-work. The central compartment, affording the state-entrance to the Palace, is of stone, and is adorned with considerable splendour. Four columns, of the Corinthian order, sustain an angular pediment, on which are sculptured the triumphs of Hercules over Envy. The *Southern Front* is 328 feet in length, but is less embellished than that towards the east. The general effect of these principal fronts is extremely grand; but the design is not thought to possess much architectural excellence, and the eye is offended by the union of buildings in a classical style with the remains of Wolsey's ancient English edifice.

The state apartments are uniformly of noble proportions, and are furnished in that style of weighty splendour which prevailed in the latter part of the seventeenth century. The collection of pictures, dispersed throughout these rooms, is truly worthy of a Royal Palace, and comprises the inimitable *Cartoons of Raffaelle.*

The remains of the ancient structure are considerable, but are chiefly of a subordinate character, with the exceptions of the *Chapel* and the *Great Hall.*

traditionally said to be the room used by the commissioners on the above important occasion.

Uxbridge is subordinate, in ecclesiastical concerns, to the parish of Hillingdon: its chief place of religious worship is, therefore, termed a chapel. This is an irregular structure, composed of flint and brick; and contains no object of peculiar interest.

Within two miles of Uxbridge, on the south-west, is [141*] *Delaford Park*, the property and residence of the late Charles Clowes, Esq. The house stands on an elevated spot: a branch of the river Colne waters the estate, and the park is enriched by much ornamental wood.

Osterley House [142] is situated in the parish of *Heston*, to the north of the great western road. The celebrated Sir Thomas Gresham, to whom the city of London is indebted for its Royal Exchange, had a mansion on this spot, at which he had the honour of entertaining Queen Elizabeth. The estate afterwards became vested in the Child family, and is now the property and residence of the Earl of Jersey, who married the grand-daughter of the late Robert Child, Esq.

The mansion was chiefly rebuilt, as it at present appears, shortly after the year 1760. This building is of a quadrangular form, enclosing a central area or court. The extent, from east to west, is

140 feet, and from north to south 117 feet. At the angles are square turrets, which are the only remains of the original structure. On the east, or principal front, is a grand portico, composed of twelve columns of the Ionic order, supporting an angular pediment, richly ornamented. Independent of this portico, and some other decorative particulars, the structure is formed of brick, a material not well suited to so extensive a pile.

The principal apartments are of noble proportions, and are richly fitted up. The Gallery, which is 130 feet in length, contains many select and valuable pictures by the old masters, together with some fine portraits. The Park, which comprises about 350 acres, is desirably shaded with wood, but is of a flat and dull character.

Twyford Abbey, [143] the elegant residence of Thomas Willan, Esq., is situated in a fine and secluded tract of country, between Ealing and Wilsdon. It must be noticed, as a curious feature in the environs of the metropolis, that the parish of West Twyford, which comprises 280 acres of land, contains no domestic buildings, except the above-named mansion and a dependant farming establishment. On the site of the present structure there stood an ancient manor-house, surrounded by a moat, which was crossed by a drawbridge. The mansion erected by Mr. Willan, and denominated Twyford Abbey, is in that style of old English

architecture which is often termed Gothic, and is a spacious and splendid pile, highly creditable to the taste and liberality of the proprietor. In the immediate neighbourhood of the mansion is the church of Twyford, which has lately been greatly altered and improved by Mr. Willan, and is now an estimable ornament of his pleasing domain.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL is a large and populous village, seated on the boldest parts of a lofty elevation, which constitutes a landmark for the surrounding districts to a great extent.

This place is distant ten miles from London, and is celebrated for its GRAMMAR SCHOOL, which ranks, at present, amongst the eight great schools of England; the others being Winchester, Westminster, Eton, the Charter-House, Merchant-Taylors, St. Paul's, and Rugby. The school of Harrow proceeded from a small beginning, being founded, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by a wealthy yeoman of this parish, named John Lyon, as a mere parochial Free-School. Under the excellent management of successive learned masters, it gradually attained its present high rank as a place of education for the sons of many distinguished families in all parts of England, and has produced some of the best scholars who have adorned public offices of the state, the liberal professions, and the republic of letters. The number of students is, at present, about two hundred and

ninety. The Eton plan of instruction is used in this school.

The principal ornamental residence in the village of Harrow is termed the *Manor-house of Flambards*, and is a seat of Lord Northwick. The noble proprietor is distinguished for an elegant taste in the fine arts, and his mansion contains a small, but valuable collection of paintings, and a rich cabinet of medals.

The *Church* of Harrow is very generally known to travellers in this part of England, on account of its elevated site. A church on this spot was erected, shortly after the Norman conquest, by Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury; and some parts of that ancient edifice are still remaining, particularly a door-way on the western face of the tower. But the principal divisions of the present church appear to have been rebuilt in the fourteenth century.

Bentley Priory, a seat of the Marquis of Abercorn, is situated on that part of *Harrow Weald* which borders upon Stanmore. This mansion is built on, or near, the site of a religious house of the same name, which was dissolved at the time of the general suppression of monastic establishments, in the reign of Henry the Eighth. The mansion was much enlarged by the late Marquis, but with little attention to architectural beauty; and the whole pile is at present merely an

extensive and commodious family-house. The principal rooms contain several antique busts, of great excellence, and a tasteful collection of pictures by the old masters, together with many valuable portraits. Near this seat were discovered, in the year 1781, some Roman coins, two golden rings, and other antiquities.

STANMORE HOUSE, [144] the seat of the Countess of Aylesford, is situated in an extensive park, which is rendered of conspicuous beauty by fine inequalities of surface, and is richly adorned with wood. From several parts of the pleasure-grounds are obtained prospects nearly unrivalled, as to extent and variety, in the county of Middlesex.

The small, but respectable village of FINCHLEY lies to the west of the northern road, at the distance of eight miles from London. On the former extensive *Common* appertaining to this parish, General Monk drew up his forces at a memorable era in English history,—the month of February, 1660. The *Parish Church* [145] is a pleasing structure, erected in the fifteenth century, and chiefly composed of stone.

WROTHAM PARK, the seat of George Byng, Esq., one of the representatives in Parliament for the county of Middlesex, is situated in the parish of *South Mims*, near the northern extremity of this county. The mansion was erected about the year 1754, after a design of the architect, Ware,

Finchley Church.

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Isleworth.

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Sion House.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

The county of Monmouth is a fertile subject of general and topographical inquiry. In natural wealth and beauty, few counties claim a precedence; and scarcely any possess superior interest in regard to early history. It was here that the tribe, or petty nation, of ancient Britons, denominated the *Silures*, made, under Caractacus, a memorable opposition to the Romans. The renowned Roman leader, Ostoricus, fell a victim to the fatigue and anxiety which he experienced through the obduracy of the Silurians; but that brave people were eventually subdued, in the reign of Vespasian, by Julius Frontinus.

Monmouthshire is bounded on the south and south-east by the Bristol Channel; on the west by the counties of Glamorgan and Brecknock; on the north by Brecknock and Herefordshire; on the east it is separated from Gloucestershire by the river Wye. Its extent is comparatively small: the greatest length being about twenty-nine miles, and the extreme breadth twenty-six.

This county has been termed the "connecting link between England and Wales, as it unites the scenery, the language, and the manners of both." It, indeed, formed part of Wales until the time of Henry the Eighth, by which sovereign the principality was divided into twelve shires, and the district now under consideration was declared to be a constituent portion of England. The claim of the English was, however, chiefly nominal until the time of Charles the Second, when the judges performing the Oxford circuit first kept the assizes here.

The traveller who is so happy as to entertain a feeling for the picturesque charms of nature, will experience warm emotions of pleasure whilst investigating Monmouthshire. The face of the country is continually diversified by hills and valleys, displaying at some points great magnificence of scenery, and in other instances affording attractive examples of pastoral softness. The retired parts of the county are affluent in vestiges of British and Roman antiquity, which those who have attained a due acquaintance with our early history will scarcely fail to view as objects of laudable curiosity. The rural parish-churches, which are generally whitened, often occupy secluded spots on the banks of rivers, or are partially seen amidst a thick screen of protecting woodland. In several divi-

sions occur the remains of castles, beyond the reach of record, and venerable mansions,

> "Coëval with those rich cathedral fanes
> "(Gothic ill-nam'd) where harmony results
> "From disunited parts."

The soil of Monmouthshire may be described as possessing three local distinctions of character. The southern part of the county comprises large tracts of moor, or marsh-lands, interspersed with fertile meadows and arable lands of a useful but not superior quality. The eastern division, which comprehends the borders of the river Usk, is of high esteem with the husbandman and grazier, and has been emphatically described as "almost spontaneously supplying the various comforts of life." The third division consists of the western and most hilly part of the county. The uplands are here the principal feature, and have, in general, a thin and peaty surface, covering strata of stone, which lie over mines of coal and iron ore.

The mines of iron and coal with which this county is enriched, constitute its chief sources of commercial importance. The attention of the inhabitants was first directed to the iron trade in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The success with which the mines were cultivated, declined from the reign of Charles the First until the latter years of the eighteenth century, chiefly owing to the want of wood, which was long considered the only

fuel applicable to the use of the iron-works. Pit-coal is now proved to be an efficient substitute; and appears, indeed, to have been used as such when iron was first worked in this country. The steam-engine, and other mechanical inventions, have likewise favoured the spirit of enterprise; and the iron-works of Monmouthshire are, at present, scarcely of secondary importance to any in the kingdom.

The principal rivers connected with this county are the Severn, the Wye, the Usk, the Rumney, the Monnow or Mynwy, and the Ebwy.

MONMOUTH, the chief town of this county, is situated near the confluence of the rivers Monnow and Wye, at the termination of a fine valley, which is surrounded by lofty and well-wooded hills. The buildings are principally ranged in one broad street, and are, in several instances, handsome and capacious. Many of the houses are detached, with interesting gardens or orchards; and nearly the whole are white-washed. The environs are extremely beautiful, and abound in fine rides and walks.

This place is noticed in some early pages of our national history, and is usually believed to have been inhabited by the Romans, although no actual vestiges of that people have been discovered. It was certainly a town of some consideration in the latter ages of the Anglo-Saxon government; and

possessed a fortress anterior to the Norman conquest. The structure was nearly razed to the ground in the reign of Henry the Third, but was speedily restored; and this castle, which came into the possession of John of Gaunt, by his marriage with the heiress of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, was distinguished, in the fifteenth century, as the birth-place of King Henry the Fifth, thence denominated Henry of Monmouth.

The remains of this memorable castle are now few, and are rendered obscure by surrounding buildings. They are situated on the ridge of an eminence, near the banks of the river Monnow, and are viewed to the greatest advantage from the opposite shore. In the most important part of the dilapidated edifice are still preserved some traces of the chamber in which King Henry was born. This apartment was situated in an upper story, as were all the state-rooms of ancient castles. The beams which supported the floor still project from the side-walls, and shew the chamber to have been fifty-eight feet long, and twenty-four feet in breadth. This large, but dreary apartment was lighted by windows of the pointed form, some of which yet remain. Within the precincts of the ruined castle is a handsome domestic building, formerly used as an occasional residence by the ducal family of Beaufort, now proprietors of this forsaken scene of ancient splendour.

Amongst other antiquities in the town of Monmouth, may be noticed some remains of an Alien Priory for black Monks of the Benedictine order, founded in the reign of Henry the First. These monastic vestiges are situated to the north of the parish-church, and comprise a small apartment, locally termed the *Study of Geoffrey of Monmouth*; but the style of architecture is evidently of a more recent date than that at which the romantic Geoffrey flourished.

The *Parish Church*, dedicated to *St. Mary*, occupies the site of the church formerly attached to this Alien Priory; and the tower, and lower part of the spire, are remains of the original monastic edifice. The structure, usually called *St. Thomas's Church*, is, in fact, a chapel subordinate to the parochial church of St. Mary. This building, however, possesses superior interest, and is, in its principal parts, a very curious specimen of that style of architecture which is indiscriminately applied to the Saxons and Normans. The northern door of the nave, and the interior arch between the nave and chancel, are of a very early character.

In perambulating this town, we find many remains of walls, curtains, bastions, and other tokens of fortification. Amongst modern buildings is conspicuous the *New Town Hall*, attached to the Market-place. This building is erected on

columns, forming in front a handsome colonnade; but is disgraced by a very bad statue of Henry the Fifth.

The renowned prince, whose birth is so just a subject of pride with this town, was born in the year 1387, and appears to have passed his infancy in Monmouthshire.

The fabulous chronicler, Geoffrey, Bishop of St. Asaph, usually termed Geoffrey of Monmouth, was also born at this place, early in the twelfth century. His principal work is the translation of an ancient History of Britain; to which he made large additions, but with so great an indulgence of fancy that the work is uniformly viewed merely in the character of an amusing romance.

Distant about one mile from Monmouth is TROY HOUSE, the ancient seat of the Herbert family. Of the original mansion there now remains only a gateway, with a pointed arch. The present edifice was erected after a design of Inigo Jones, but possesses little beauty, and occupies a low and undesirable situation. The principal apartments are embellished with a large collection of family portraits.

Eight miles to the east of the same town are the ruins of WHITE CASTLE. This fortress anciently formed part of the extensive possessions of Brien Fitz-Count, Earl of Hereford, who entered England in the train of William the Conqueror. The ruins

occupy the ridge of an eminence, and are surrounded by a deep moat. The ground-plan approaches towards the oval form; and the walls, which are of great thickness, are faced with hewn stone of a brown tint. No appearance of windows is to be discovered in those outward parts of the fabric which are now remaining; but there are numerous *œillets* for the discharge of arrows.

In consequence of the rude character of this massive fortress, its erection has been conjecturally ascribed, by some writers, to those Britons who defended Wales against the invading arms of the Romans and Saxons. Other antiquaries are contented with supposing that it was constructed at an early period of the Norman ascendancy. The surmises of both parties are quite destitute of historical support; and many other rude, and very ancient military structures in this county are equally open to the speculations of ingenuity. White Castle experienced several sieges in the time of Henry the Second. It now appertains to the Duchy of Lancaster, but is in a state of utter neglect; cattle browsing in those courts where warriors formerly assembled in chivalric emulation.

The Castles of Scenfreth and Grosmont, in this neighbourhood, were united with the above fortress, as possessions of the Norman Earl of Hereford. Their ruins are situated on recluse spots, and are of unusual interest, as impressive decora-

tions of the surrounding scenery. Whatever might be the period at which these three castles were first erected, it will not be doubted but that they were considerably improved and strengthened by the Anglo-Normans.

In the deep recesses of that range of elevations termed the *Black Mountains*, is a narrow and secluded vale, fertile in natural beauty, through which the river Honddy flows in a meandering course. An ancient author describes this retired and pensive valley, as a place "where a calm "peace, and perfect charity, invite to holy reli-"gion." The bosom of the vale was formerly clothed with umbrageous wood; and here, in a natural amphitheatre, encompassed by lofty mountains, which prohibit all intercourse with the gay and busy parts of society, are seen the ruins of the once celebrated monastery termed LLANTHONY ABBEY [146].

The early history of this religious institution is lost in the gloom which too often enwraps the buildings of remote ages; but it is ascertained that there was established, on this spot, a Priory for regular canons of the Augustine order, soon after the year 1108, to which Henry the First and his Queen were benefactors. The prosperity of the pious brotherhood was, however, of short duration. During the wars between Stephen and the Empress Maud, the monks were exposed to great injuries

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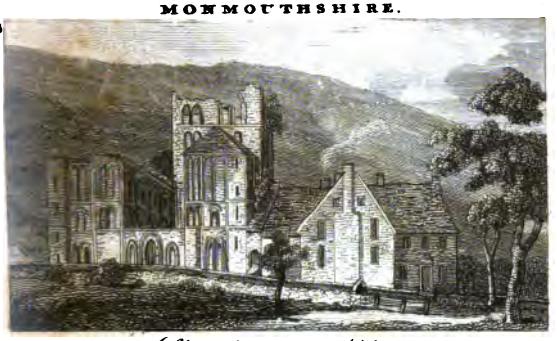

Llanthoney Abbey.

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Ragland Castle.

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Tintern Abbey.

from the Welsh, who eagerly sought, in those unhappy times, for opportunities of shewing their hatred towards the English of every class. Wearied by insult and depredation, many of the monks removed to new buildings constructed for their use near the city of Gloucester. Those who remained on the original foundation were few in number, and are stated to have possessed only a small revenue at the time of the dissolution, in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

The principal remains of the Monastery consist of the ruins of the Conventual Church, which was built in the cruciform style, resembling a cathedral. In regard to architectural character, we find in this building a mixture of the circular and the pointed arch; a proof that it was erected very soon after the partial introduction of the latter form. The ruins, consequently, are massy and august, rather than graceful; but they interest the spectator through the effect of a magnificent simplicity, which finely corresponds with the aspect of the surrounding country.

The town of ABERGAVENNY occupies a gentle slope on the north bank of the Usk, and comprises several handsome streets. This place was formerly a military station of the Romans, and was subsequently fortified by the Anglo-Normans. The remains of a castle constructed by the latter people are still to be seen, although in a state of extreme

dilapidation, on an eminence which rises with commanding boldness near the margin of the river Usk. The walls which encompassed the town may still be traced; and the western portal, denominated *Tudor's Gate*, which is a fabric in the pointed style, is in good preservation. It may not be irrelative to observe that the view obtained through this ancient gateway presents an assemblage of picturesque objects, perhaps unequalled in beauty throughout the whole of this attractive county.

An Alien Priory was founded in Abergavenny by *Hameline Balun*, who built the castle shortly after the Norman conquest. The present Parochial Church was the chapel belonging to that Priory, but has been chiefly re-edified in later ages, as it now contains few indications of the circular style. The interior comprises many curious monuments, principally commemorative of the Herbert family.

Pontypool is a large, but straggling town, which has risen to some local importance in consequence of neighbouring coal and iron-works. This place communicates its name to an article of manufacture, well known in domestic uses. The *Pontypool ware* is composed of iron plates, varnished in imitation of the lackered articles brought from Japan, and thence denominated *Japan ware*. This manufacture was invented by a person named Thomas Allgood, in the time of Charles the Se-

cond. Articles of this description are now also made, greatly to the detriment of Pontypool, at Birmingham and several other places. This town comprises many neat domestic buildings, but has no public structures calculated to arrest the attention of the curious.

The principal mansion in the neighbourhood is termed PONTYPOOL PARK, and is seated on an eminence commanding views finely diversified. The house was partly erected by John Hanbury, Esq. better known by the name of *Major Hanbury*, a political character of considerable notoriety in the reigns of Anne and George the First. In several apartments are preserved some good portraits of the Hanbury family, and a few paintings of more general interest.

TREDEGAR PARK, the spacious and magnificent seat of the ancient family of Morgan, is surrounded by extensive grounds, which are richly covered with groves of oaks and Spanish chestnuts, remarkable for their great age and beauty. The Edwy, a rapid stream, traverses this fine domain; the red tint of its rocky banks being strongly contrasted with the neighbouring verdure.

The family of Morgan is derived, by the fanciful genealogists of Wales, from a personage no less ancient than the third son of Noah! It is, at any rate, certain that the members of this house can trace their descent from persons of great wealth

and power, in ages which are regarded with utter indifference by the busy and unlettered parts of society. This respectable family have resided at Tredegar through numerous generations. Some parts of a building, which they occupied previous to the reign of the eighth Henry, are still existing; but the present mansion was chiefly erected in the time of Charles the Second. The comparatively modern house is built of brick, and occupies a site undesirably flat. The apartments are large and well-proportioned. Several retain their original character; and amongst such is observable a room forty-two feet in length, and twenty-seven in breadth, the whole floor being of oak, formed from the planks of a single tree. A very noble collection of portraits enriches the chief apartments of this spacious mansion.

The town of CAERLEON, situated upon the northern banks of the Usk, has acquired great celebrity in historic pages. Here the Romans fixed their chief station in this part of the country; the invincible second Augustan legion lying for several years, in garrison, within the lines of the Roman fortress. If we believe the traditions of the neighbourhood, as repeated by diverse chroniclers, this was the seat of British government in the time of King Arthur, and the place where he displayed all the pomp and conviviality connected with the festive celebrations of the *Round Table*. On these

latter tales the judicious will, however, look with suspicion; but the distinction attained by Caerleon, whilst the Romans held sway over Britain, is beyond the possibility of doubt, since the testimony of historians is supported by various antiquities, discovered on the spot.

The history of a town often presents a fine subject of moral reflection. Caerleon once, as we are told by a credible annalist, "rich in palaces which "emulated the grandeur of Rome," has sunk, progressively, into the character of a small and inconsiderable town, whose former splendour is confined to the page of history, and to some few neglected ruins, too humble to afford the peasant shelter from a passing storm! Some parts of the walls formed by the Romans, those "mighty conquerors of the "world," may still be seen, decaying and unimportant masses! Beyond the lines of the Roman fortress is an artificial concavity, vulgarly termed *Arthur's Round Table*, which appears to have been an amphitheatre. Other relics, too numerous and widely-scattered for notice in the present work, are uniformly subordinate in interest to those already mentioned.

Caerleon presents little that is remarkable, independent of its early history, and the vestiges appertaining to that remote era of prosperity. In the vicinity of the town are extensive tin-works, comprising some well-adapted and curious machinery.

RAGLAN, or RAGLAND CASTLE, [147] is greatly distinguished in history, as the former dignified residence of the noble family of Somerset. This fortress appears to have been of a less ancient character than any similar structure in Monmouthshire, the principal parts not being older than the time of Henry the Fifth, whilst considerable additions were made so lately as the reign of Charles the First. From the character of the buildings, Raglan must be viewed as a fortified house, of a description unusually strong, rather than as a regular castle.

This curious pile is an object of peculiar veneration, on account of the gallantry with which it was defended against the parliament army in the seventeenth century, by Henry, the fifth Earl and first Marquis of Worcester. The noble Marquis, then much advanced in years, had the honour of frequently entertaining in this castellated abode his ill-fated Sovereign, during the first years of the civil wars. England did not possess a more discreet or faithful subject; and it is confidently said, that if the King had been ruled by the counsels of this aged nobleman, he might have preserved both crown and life.

It was immediately after the departure of King Charles from Raglan, in the summer of 1646, that the castle was invested by the parliamentarian forces under Sir Thomas Fairfax. The resistance

was obstinate, and was continued during the long term of ten weeks; at which time the powder of the defendants was reduced to the last barrel. The Marquis then surrendered on honourable terms; himself (more than fourscore years of age) marching forth at the head of the garrison, with all the honours of war.

It is lamentable to state that the grey hairs of this loyal and noble veteran afforded no argument in his favour with puritanical and ambitious judges. He was placed in confinement by the Parliament; and, in the decreptitude of his lengthened years, speedily sunk to death on the pillow of imprisonment. Nearly his last words partook of that playful spirit of good-humour which had characterized his whole course. When informed that his conquerors, however harsh, would permit him to be buried in his family-vault, at Windsor, he exclaimed, "Why, God bless us all! then I shall have a "better castle when I am dead than they took "from me whilst I was alive!"

After its subjugation, the Castle of Raglan was dismantled by order of the Parliament; and the tenants of the estate, in succeeding years, removed large quantities of the stone, and other materials, for the use of their dwellings and farm-offices. Such injurious privileges are now forbidden by the Duke of Beaufort, to whom the property belongs;

and the remains are likely to meet the view of a distant posterity.

The ruins are situated on a slight eminence, about one mile from the village of Raglan; and include a large portion of the citadel, or strongest part of the building, the walls of which are ten feet in thickness. The grand entrance, together with several towers, and the traces of many noble apartments, are also preserved, for the gratification of such visitors as derive pleasure from the examination of relics connected with important events of history.

The banks of the river Wye abound in picturesque objects. Natural beauty, communicating ideas of tranquillity and contentment, is blended, at many fine turns of this sinuous river, with decaying castles, and monastic ruins. Amongst these latter monuments of ages long since faded into dust, no ruins, on the lovely banks of the Wye, are so attractive and picturesque as the remains of TINTERN ABBEY [148].

This monastery was originally founded for monks of the Cistercian order, by Walter de Clare, in the year 1131. The benefactions were numerous; and the Cistercian monks enjoyed competence in this pleasing retreat, until the suppression of religious houses in the time of the eighth Henry. The ruins are seated in a valley, which is screened by

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

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Chepstow.

NORFOLK.

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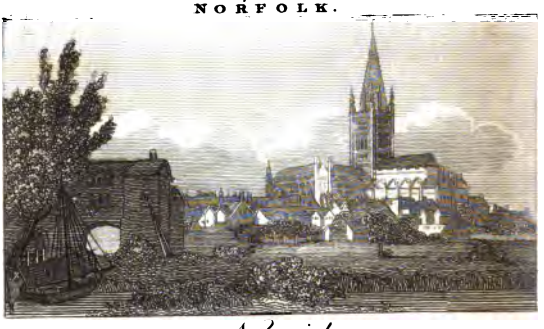

Norwich.

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Norwich Market Place.

wooded eminences that rise abruptly from the river, and bestow an agreeable shade on the spot of cloistered seclusion. The most conspicuous remains are those of the Abbey-church, which building was designed in a fine modification of the English style of architecture, and was evidently erected at a date long subsequent to the original foundation of the Abbey.

The exterior appearance of these vestiges is less impressive than the effect produced by an interior view. The commanding length of the nave, the aspiring form of the pointed arches, and the magnificent size of the east window, which closes the perspective, present a rare combination of the elegant, the beautiful, and the sublime. Mr. Coxe, in his History of Monmouthshire, alludes, in the following words, to a transcendant point of beauty afforded by the silent and undisturbed operation of time:—"Nature has added her ornaments to the "decorations of art; some of the windows are "wholly obscured, others partially shaded with "tufts of ivy, or edged with lighter foliage; the "tendrils creep along the walls, wind round the "pillars, wreath the capitals, or hanging down in "clusters obscure the space beneath."

The town of CHEPSTOW, [149] situated near the south-east angle of the county, occupies the side of a declivity on the western bank of the river Wye, and is surrounded by lofty and protecting hills.

sisting of a centre and two wings. The estate is chiefly indebted for its present high state of decoration and splendour to the late Valentine Morris, Esq. who, unhappily, indulged, on this spot, in so bounteous and hospitable a style of living, that he sunk to utter want, and died beloved by all, but assisted by few. Many improvements have been bestowed on the grounds by recent proprietors.

NORFOLK.

The county of Norfolk is of great national importance, in agricultural and commercial points of view. Its numerous seats, fine examples of ecclesiastical architecture, and frequent vestiges of antiquity, also render this district of high interest with the lover of the arts.

Norfolk is bounded on the north and east by the German Ocean, and is nearly rendered insular by that sea, and the streams which form its boundaries, in other directions. On the south it is separated from Suffolk by the rivers Waveney and Little Ouse; and on the west from the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln by the Great Ouse and the Nen, or Nene. Its greatest extent, from east to west, has been estimated at about seventy-four miles; and from north to south at forty-eight.

The coast of Norfolk presents little of the picturesque. The shore is generally flat, and destitute of those deeply-indented bays which form such attractive features on the western, and several other parts of the English coast. A small bay in the vicinity of Cromer may, however, be mentioned as

an exception to the latter remark; and the cliff of Hunstanton, commonly called *St. Edmund's Point* (from King Edmund having landed there, when he took possession of East Anglia), must be noticed as a solitary instance of the bold and rocky prominence so conducive to the beauty of marine scenery.

It has been observed that "the surface of this "county may be considered as less varied in its "features than that of any tract of country, of "equal extent, in the kingdom;" and such is, assuredly, the fact. The northern parts are the most unequal; and are agreeably diversified with gentle elevations and depressions, interspersed with ornamental expanses of wood.

The farmer reaps a rich harvest from the soil over which the pictorial examiner passes with indifference. This county has been long famed for the skill and industry of its agriculturalists. Connected with this part of our subject, it may be desirable to observe that turnips were first cultivated in England, as objects of husbandry, by the inhabitants of Norfolk. This truly valuable root had been solely viewed as an article for the table, until the reign of George the First, when Lord Townshend recommended it to his tenants as an object of field culture. After experiencing much opposition from the prejudices of that illiterate part of society on which its reception depended, the turnip has now risen to general esteem amongst the agri-

culturalists of Great Britain; but is scarcely cultivated, in any part of the island, with so much success as in that county which first patronised its growth. Aided by this profitable substitute for a periodical fallow, the lands of Norfolk are celebrated for the quantity and excellence of the barley which they produce.

Although Norfolk cannot be described as a country rich in timber, it still possesses many fine woods, partially scattered throughout nearly the whole of its divisions. The principal rivers are the Great Ouse, the Little Ouse, the Waveney, the Bure, the Yare, and the Nen.

NORWICH, [150] the principal city on the eastern side of England, is chiefly situated on the top and sides of a gentle hill, which rises from the western margin of the river Wensum. This city is rather more than one mile and a half in length, and has been said "to stand upon more ground, comparatively with its population, than any town in the kingdom," the buildings being generally interspersed with gardens. It was formerly surrounded, except on the side towards the river, by an embattled wall, now greatly dilapidated; and had twelve gates, the whole of which have been taken down. The river is at present crossed by five bridges; one of iron, and four of stone.

The city of Norwich appears to have originated in the decay of the Roman station termed Venta-

Icenorum; some traces of which, in walls and remains of foundations, are still to be seen, at the distance of about three miles from Norwich, towards the south; the site being usually known by the name of Castor, or Caister St. Edmund's.

The modern city attained some distinction under the government of the Anglo-Saxons; and a castle of great strength was erected here by King Canute, our first sovereign of the Danish line. This castle was either improved or rebuilt by the Normans, shortly after their conquest of England; and its remains, now converted, with the aid of additional buildings, into a gaol for the county, are objects of great curiosity with the antiquarian visitor. These vestiges chiefly consist of the keep, or principal tower, which is of square proportions, and is seated on a natural elevation. The area of the ancient castle, including the outworks, contained about twenty-three acres, the whole of which was surrounded by a wall.

The most distinguished event in the civil annals of Norwich relates to the arrival of a numerous body of ingenious *Flemings*, who introduced in the year 1336, those worsted manufactures which are still denominated Norwich-stuffs. The prosperity of the inhabitants subsequently experienced some decline, but revived in 1566, through the settlement of many Dutch and Walloon families. By these new inmates bombazines, and other valuable

articles in the weaving manufacture, were introduced. The above constitute the two most memorable eras in the commercial history of this city. The industry and enterprising spirit of the traders have led to a due cultivation of circumstances so advantageous; and the manufactures of Norwich, with unavoidable vicissitudes produced by public causes, have retained to the present time an important rank in the aggregate of national exertion.

In perambulating the city of Norwich our attention is first demanded by the *Cathedral*. This noble structure was founded by Herbert de Losing in the year 1096, and is chiefly in the Anglo-Norman style. The interior is remarkable for dignified simplicity, and presents to the examiner a rare and estimable opportunity of forming a judgment respecting the merits of Norman architecture, when exercised on a magnificent scale. Whilst he venerates the solemn gloom created by the austere uniformity of the ancient parts of the nave and choir, he will, probably, lament the absence of those transcendant elegancies of a later date, which cause the enjoyments of fancy to mix with emotions of reverence.

The *Cloisters* attached to the south side of this cathedral are extremely beautiful, and in a good state of preservation. They display several modifications of pointed architecture; the first part

The small village of *Aslacton* requires notice, as the birth-place of the eminent antiquary and herald, Sir William Le Neve, who was born in 1592. The numerous collections made by this industrious writer were of great assistance to Mr. Blomefield, in his valuable history of the county of Norfolk.

The town of THETFORD has only a disputable claim to higher antiquity than the time of the Anglo-Saxons. Under the sway of that people it formed the metropolis of a petty kingdom; but, from its situation, was dangerously open to invasions from the north of Europe, and was successively besieged, occupied, and destroyed, by different parties of the Danes. In the time of William the Conqueror, this place constituted the see of the East Anglian diocese, and consequently became a city; but the residence of episcopal dignity was speedily removed to Norwich.

King Henry the First, and several later sovereigns, have occasionally resided in this town. King James the First was fond of hunting in the neighbourhood; but it is said that he experienced a disgust, through the spirited conduct of a farmer, who brought an action of trespass against his Majesty for riding in pursuit of game, attended by a large and disdainful retinue, through those well-cropped fields which formed the sole hope of the

poor man's family. Our first James had too little a mind for the dignified support of the crown: he condescended to become the opponent of the farmer, but retired from the spot on which he could not conveniently execute injustice. The palace of Thetford is now private property, and has been rebuilt; but the re-edified structure still bears the name of "the King's House."

This town, although of no great importance at the present time, affords many vestiges of former splendour. We are told that it possessed, at one period, twenty churches, and eight monasteries. The ruins of ecclesiastical, and other buildings, are to be seen in many parts, "fraught with the tales of ancient times." The *Priory*, or *Abbey*, was founded by Roger Bigod, in the year 1104. The monks possessed some peculiar privileges, and their church afforded a place of burial to many distinguished families. Considerable ruins of this religious house still exist, including parts of the church, and the gateway.

Three churches only remain. Of these, St. Peter's (often called the Black Church, from its being chiefly composed of flint) is, perhaps, the most interesting. The tower has been rebuilt at a recent period, but the other parts of the structure evince great antiquity. At the eastern extremity of the town are some remains of fortifications, which are supposed to have been first raised by the

Saxons, and to have been improved by the Normans.

ATTLEBOROUGH, or ATTLEBURGH, was formerly a market-town of some importance, but is now a place of little consideration, and chiefly demands the notice of the topographer on account of its *Parochial Church*, which is a capacious and handsome structure, in the form of a cross. The east end is destroyed, but the remaining parts exhibit some pleasing examples of that style of sacred architecture which prevailed in the fourteenth century. This venerable building contains the funeral monuments of many persons distinguished in former ages for rank and power.—It may not be entirely useless to observe, that the *Highway* between Wymondham and Attleburgh is said to be *the first Turnpike Road* made in this kingdom. The act for its regulations passed in the reign of King William the Third.

The small market-town of WATTON presents a curious and ancient Church, supposed to have been erected in the reign of Henry the First. Near this town is *Wayland Wood*, vulgarly called *Wailing Wood*, which is traditionally said to have been the scene of a doleful murder, rendered familiar to almost every reader in his childhood, by the nursery-ballad, intitled, "*The Children in the Wood*, or the Norfolk Gentleman's last Will and Testament"

Oxburgh Hall was erected in the latter part of the fifteenth century, by Sir Henry Bedingfield, and is still the property and residence of his descendants. The buildings are composed of brick, and were originally of a square form, encompassing a court of noble dimensions. Several parts have been taken down, and others have experienced considerable alterations. The most curious relic of the ancient edifice is the grand entrance, which is flanked by two majestic towers, eighty feet in height. Over the arched gateway is a spacious and handsome room, nearly in its original state. The floor is paved with small bricks of a delicate manufacture, and the walls are covered with curious tapestry. This apartment is termed the *King's Room*, and appears to have been appropriated to King Henry the Seventh, on his visits to Oxburgh. In the eastern tower is a small closet, very difficult of approach, supposed to have constituted a hiding-place for Roman Catholics, when persons adhering to the superstitious practices of that religion were subject to persecution. This curious recess is constructed in the main wall of the fabric, and is entered by a secret passage through the floor. The castle is surrounded by a broad and deep moat, which is supplied with water from an adjacent rivulet.

King's Lynn, an ancient port and town, situated at the mouth of the River Ouse, received particular

marks of favour from several of our early sovereigns. King John halted at this place, after having chastised the refractory barons of Norfolk in the year 1204; and at that time presented the Corporation with an elegant and weighty cup of silver, double gilt, which is still preserved with great care. The whole of the town, where not protected by the waters of the river Ouse, is encompassed by a deep fosse, and a wall, once of great strength, but now in a dilapidated state. Lynn contains several public buildings, highly attractive to the cursory observer, and of great interest in the esteem of the architectural antiquary.

The *South Gate* [152] is a massive and picturesque relic of the ancient line of fortification. The *Church of St. Mary* was founded, in conjunction with a priory, by Herbert, Bishop of Norwich, in the reign of William Rufus. The existing church is chiefly in the pointed style of various ages; and, though curtailed of its original dimensions, is still a noble and commanding pile. Few vestiges are preserved of the numerous religious foundations which formerly enriched this town, except a curious hexagonal steeple, belonging to the monastery of Grey Friars, [153] which constitutes a useful landmark to vessels entering the harbour. At the eastern extremity of the town is an interesting ecclesiastical structure, now desecrated and decaying, called the *Lady's Chapel*, or the *Red*

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South Gate, Lynn.

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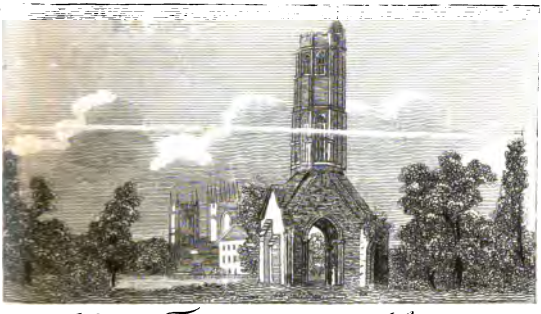

Gray Friars Monastery, Lynn.

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Blicking Hall.

Mount. The *Chapel of St. Nicholas* is a capacious and elegant edifice, supposed to have been chiefly erected about the time of Edward the Third.

The *Exchange*, or *Custom-House*, is a handsome building of freestone, erected in the year 1683. The *Guildhall*, an ancient fabric of stone and flint, contains several good portraits, amongst which is a full length of Sir Robert Walpole, who was returned member for this borough seventeen times. The town is duly provided with a theatre, and other places of modern amusement.

Castle Acre, although now reduced, by the vicissitudes of many ages, to the character of an obscure village, presents emphatical memorials of former grandeur. Here was an extensive castle, of which the only remains are earth-works and shapeless masses of stone. A Priory was founded at this place in the year 1085, and the ruins of this edifice have been supposed to present the most impressive and picturesque object of antiquity in the whole county.

Castle Rising is a borough of very remote origin. A castle was erected here by William de Albini, the first Earl of Sussex, in the early part of the twelfth century; and the keep of the original structure is still remaining. Although the building is now in a state of utter ruin, the outlines of the great hall and some contiguous apartments may be ascertained by an attentive examiner. Isabel, the

unworthy consort of King Edward the Second, was confined in this fortress from the year 1330 until her decease in 1358. Though possessing few claims on filial respect, she was twice visited in this place by her son, King Edward the Third.

The county of Norfolk has produced several naval characters of great distinction; but the fame of the whole is thrown into shade by the achievements of Lord Viscount Nelson, who was born at BURNHAM THORPE, near the small seaport town of Wells. The father of our celebrated admiral was many years rector of this parish.

The manor of Middleton was long the property of the ancient family of *Scales*, who had a seat on their estate, which appears to have been a spacious quadrangular building, surrounded by a moat. The *Gateway* still remains, and is known by the name of *Middleton Castle*. This fabric is composed of brick, and has a tower of excellent workmanship, flanked at each angle with octangular turrets. Thomas Lord Scales, by whom the mansion on this manor was probably erected, distinguished himself greatly in the French wars in the reign of Henry the Sixth.

NEW WALSINGHAM is a market-town of a pleasing aspect, situated in a valley, on each side of which the grounds rise in a more bold and picturesque manner than is usually seen in this county. The *Parochial Church* is a large and

interesting pile, displaying numerous objects of curiosity in its architectural design and various ornaments. The *Font* is supposed to be the finest specimen of the sort in England. It is of an octangular shape, and the whole of the exterior is covered with sculpture, representing beautiful architectural compartments, and several figures in basso relievo.

The *Priory* of Walsingham was founded shortly after the year 1061; and, meeting with subsequent noble benefactions, attained a great height of superstitious notoriety. Here was erected that celebrated image of the Virgin Mary, often noticed, even in general histories of England, under the name of *Our Lady of Walsingham.* The benefits to be derived from a visit to this fanciful representation of the Virgin, were esteemed so highly by the devotees of ignorant times, that Walsingham is said to have been as much frequented as Canterbury. Many royal personages condescended to sanction the popular extravagance; and it has been asserted, that Henry the Eighth, in the second year of his reign, walked, with *bare feet*, to this place, from an adjacent village, and presented a valuable necklace to the image. By the same King, in a future part of his reign, the whole institution was consigned to ruin.

The present remains of the monastic pile are chiefly comprised in the pleasure-gardens of a

man. The festivities which crowned the triumph of the chace were often of rather a boisterous character, and were noticed, with some severity, by several writers of that period, who opposed the political principles of Sir Robert.

The splendid mansion constructed by this distinguished person as a family residence, although the occasional scene of obstreperous gaieties, was rendered a noble monument of his taste in the fine arts, by one of the most valuable collections of pictures ever made by a private individual. We regret to state that Sir Robert Walpole's collection is no longer in England. It was sold to Catherine, Empress of Russia, and is now the property of the present Emperor.

The small town of CROMER has lately attracted some notice as a watering-place. The buildings are situated upon a cliff of considerable height, and command beautiful sea-views. The surrounding country affords much picturesque scenery, and the air is extremely sanative. No place on the eastern coast holds forth so many attractions to the invalid, who is desirous of mingling pursuits of pleasure with the attempt towards restoration of health.

At the distance of three miles from this pleasing town is FELLBRIGG, late the seat of the Right Hon. William Windham, distinguished in his day for parliamentary oratory; but, perhaps, entitled

to more lasting esteem as one of the most elegant classical scholars of the time in which he flourished. The house was partly built in the reign of Henry the Eighth, but has been enlarged at different periods by the Windham family. The attached park contains some fine woods, and the prospects obtained from different points of this domain are supposed to be nearly unequalled in any part of the county.

BLICKLING HALL, [154] the seat of the Harbord family, situated in the vicinity of *Aylsham*, is an ancient mansion of considerable interest. The manor on which this building is erected has been successively the property of many distinguished Norfolk families. The present mansion was chiefly built by Sir John Hobart, Knt., and was completed about the year 1628.

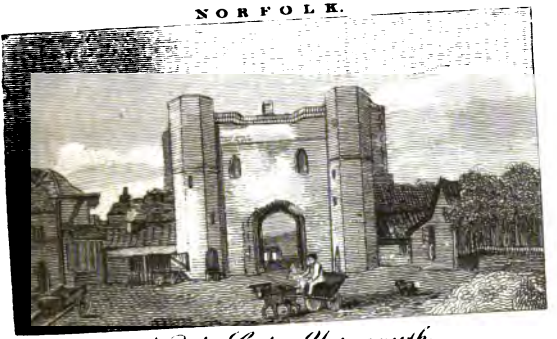
The whole edifice displays a venerable memorial of former times; and the interior is adapted to the habits of modern elegance, without a violation of ancient character. In several apartments are portraits of considerable merit; and in the gallery, amongst other pleasing circumstances of decoration, are statues of Anne Boleyn and Queen Elizabeth. The local interest arising from these pieces of sculpture must be explained by our observing, that the unfortunate Anne Boleyn is said to have been born in a house which occupied the site of the present building. It is likewise asserted

that Henry the Eighth married that ill-fated beauty from the ancient manor-house of Blickling, coming hither personally for the purpose of escorting her to the scene of nuptial ceremonials.

YARMOUTH, a seaport of great consequence, was favoured with much foreign and internal commerce at an early period of history. Gradually increasing in wealth and importance, the inhabitants obtained permission, in the thirteenth century, to surround the town with a moat, and to fortify it with embattled walls. The North Gate [155] (of which structure we present a view) is evidently a fabric of considerable antiquity. The modern fortifications of this place consist chiefly of three forts, which were erected during the American war; together with bastions, of a mural construction, for the defence of the harbour.

The town of Yarmouth contains four principal streets, which run in a parallel direction, and are crossed at right angles by no less than 156 subordinate streets, or narrow passages, denominated *Rows*. This curious, if not unique, distribution of buildings and avenues, evidently proceeds from the adoption of a uniform plan when first the limits of the town were marked by mural lines of defence; and it may not be superfluous to observe, that the contracted width of the *rows* has led to the adoption of carts, peculiarly narrow, and otherwise of an unusual construction.

NORFOLK.



North Gate, Yarmouth.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

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Horton House

Entrance to Burleigh House

Although the extent of the town is great, and its population correspondent, Yarmouth constitutes but one parish. The parochial church is a spacious edifice, begun in the year 1128, but enlarged in the thirteenth century. A handsome chapel of ease was erected in the year 1716. Several charity schools reflect honour on the liberality of the inhabitants; and the *Fisherman's Hospital* is an institution of great local utility. The Town Hall is a respectable building, with a portico of the Tuscan order in front.

The inhabitants of this seaport have the advantage of much foreign trade, chiefly with the north of Europe and the Mediterranean. By means of inland navigation, considerable interchanges in various articles also take place with nearly every part of Norfolk and Suffolk. Great benefit is derived from the fisheries upon the coast. Herrings are the principal object of the Yarmouth fishermen, but mackerel are also taken in great abundance.

The *Quay* of Yarmouth is supposed to be the finest and most extensive in Europe, except that at Seville, in Spain. Its length is 1014 yards; beyond which it extends, for small vessels, 1016 yards, making a continuation of one mile and 270 yards. In many places it is 150 yards broad; and is ornamented, on the southern part, with a range of handsome buildings.

We must not quit this busy and respectable seaport, without observing that it is much frequented as a watering-place, in that genial season when the diseased and the gay seek with equal zeal a change of scene and climate.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

The county of Northampton is situated near the central part of England. From the devious character of its outlines, this district falls in contact with more counties than any other shire in the kingdom. On the north it meets Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, and Lincolnshire; on the east it is bounded by the counties of Cambridge, Huntingdon, and Bedford; on the south it unites with parts of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire; towards the west lie the counties of Warwick and Oxford. The extreme length of Northamptonshire (calculating from Aynho, on the south-west, to the vicinity of Crowland, on the north-east) is about sixty-six miles; its average breadth is supposed to be less than twenty.

In general aspect, and character of soil, this county is equally inviting to the traveller, and desirable in the esteem of the agriculturalist. The inequalities of surface are, in many parts, sufficient for the production of a considerable degree of beauty, whilst no elevation is so severely accli-

vitous as to preclude the operations of the plough, or to deny a profitable course of pasturage.

Late in the records of Anglo-Norman dominion, the greatest part of Northamptonshire was occupied by the three royal forests of Salcey, Whittlewood, and Rockingham. The demesnes thus denominated still engross more than 18,000 acres of land, but are not entirely covered with wood. Interspersed in the tracts formerly devoted exclusively to the pleasures of the chace, are seen, in our happier days, large plots of verdant sward, appropriated to the sustenance of numerous cattle and sheep, as well as deer, the animal of royal pastime.

The *Forest of Salcey* is situated near the south-eastern border of the county, and extends (in regard to the lands at present considered as forest) in length about two miles and a half, and in breadth nearly one mile and a half. The *Forest of Whittlewood* belongs principally to the district under consideration, but extends into the adjoining counties of Oxford and Northampton: the part now considered as forest is encompassed by a mound, and comprises about 5,424 acres. The *Forest of Rockingham* is situated in the northern part of the county, and appears to have been formerly one of the largest forests in the kingdom. It at present consists of three separate districts, but the extent

of the whole has not been accurately ascertained. Besides the above forests, there are two *Chases*, and large tracts denominated *Purlieu Woods*, which are situated in the vicinity of the forests, and once formed parts of these royal domains.

It has been observed, that "Northamptonshire may justly boast, and, as it is believed, *exclusively*, that in the important article of water it is entirely and completely independent; for of the six rivers which flow through, or intersect it, every one originates within its boundaries, and not a single brook, however insignificant, runs into it from any other district." These six rivers are named the Nen or Nyne, the Welland, the Ouse, the Avon, the Leam, and the Charwell.

This county contains many fine ecclesiastical buildings, amongst which the Cathedral of Peterborough occupies a pre-eminent place. The seats of nobility and gentry were formerly so numerous, that a writer of the age of James the First styles Northamptonshire the *Herald's Garden*. Family-mansions, of a truly respectable character, are at present of frequent occurrence; and several are at once capacious and interesting examples of ancient domestic architecture.

NORTHAMPTON, the principal town of the county, is divided into four parts, of nearly equal extent, by two intersecting streets, nearly a mile in length, and of an eligible width. Many of the

houses are constructed of stone, bearing a yellow tint, and some are formed of brick; but the greater number are composed of a red sand-stone, dug from quarries in the neighbourhood.

The most early historical notices of this town relate to various ravages committed by the predatory Danes, in the times of the Anglo-Saxons. Descending to annals of a less obscure and disputable character, we find that this place was frequently visited by royal personages subsequent to the Norman conquest, and was the scene of several councils and synods, of great national importance. The most distinguished of these conventions took place in the twenty-sixth year of King Henry the Second, at which time the barons and prelates were assembled, to amend and enforce the constitutions of Clarendon. Amongst other memorable regulations, the kingdom was then divided into six circuits, and justices itinerant were assigned to each. As the advice of the knights and burgesses, as well as that of the nobles, was required at this council, the meeting has been usually considered as the model on which parliaments were constituted in succeeding ages.

Henry the Third frequently visited Northampton; and in his reign a kind of University was established here. The institution comprised dissatisfied persons emigrating, nearly in an equal proportion, from Oxford and Cambridge; but the

whole were compelled, by a royal mandate, to return to their regular places of collegiate study. As the name of King Edward the First is connected with a monumental fabric still existing near the town, it may afford some correlative interest to observe, that this sovereign often held his court at Northampton, and was here shortly previous to his decease.

In the year 1460, a decisive battle was fought in the vicinity of this town, between the Yorkists and Lancastrians. The defeat of the latter party was peculiarly disastrous to their cause, as King Henry the Sixth was taken prisoner by the triumphant faction.

Northampton was formerly surrounded by embattled walls, and had the additional protection of a castle. But some traces of foundation, and parts of the fossæ, are now the only remains of ancient fortification. In past ages the town contained seven parochial churches, but the number is at present diminished to four. Two of these structures are entitled to the attentive examination of the curious.

The *Church of St. Peter*, situated at the western extremity of the town, appears to have been erected by one of the first Norman Earls of Northampton, and is an interesting example of the circular and massive style of architecture. The exterior is of an impressive character; but the

internal arrangement and decorations are the primary objects of attraction. On each side of the nave are eight semicircular arches. The capitals of the columns are charged with scroll-work, human heads, animals, and the various extravagant subjects devised by sculptors who were permitted to indulge in the wildest excursions of fancy. The great archway beneath the tower at the west end of the nave is the most richly-embellished and curious part of the building.

St. Sepulchre's Church, near the northern extremity of the town, presents one of the four remaining examples of *Round Churches*, constructed in this country, in imitation of the fabric raised over the holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. It will be recollected that the other three are situated in the Temple, London; at Little Maplestead, Essex; and at Cambridge. Additions have been made, at different times, to the circular church of Northampton; but the most ancient part of the structure is not of a later date than the commencement of the thirteenth century.

Amongst public buildings of a modern character must be noticed the *General Infirmary*, which was begun in 1791, and opened in the year 1793. The Schools for gratuitous education are numerous, and are conducted with exemplary care.

Near the town of Northampton is one of those monumental records of ardent connubial attach-

ment, which King Edward the First erected to the memory of Eleanor, his fair and virtuous consort. This structure is locally termed THE QUEEN'S CROSS, and still displays great architectural beauty and much excellence of sculpture, although subject to lamentable dilapidation, more through the inflictions of wantonness and the acts of tasteless *renovators*, than the operation of time. In the second ascending tier of decorations are four statues, one of which (if not more) was designed to represent the exemplary and beautiful queen whose remains once rested for a short interval upon this spot. The most perfect of the Crosses erected by order of Edward the First, is situated at *Geddington*, in this county.

The market-town of DAVENTRY (vulgarly pronounced *Danetre*) is situated on the ascent and summit of a hill. Owing to the popular mode of pronouncing the name, it is believed by some persons that this place was founded by the Danes; but the real etymology of the appellation may be found in the British words *Dwy-avon-tre*, signifying the town of the two Avons, or rivers.

A priory was founded at Daventry in the year 1090, for monks of the Cluniac order. This house was richly endowed, and was one of the first monasteries dissolved by Cardinal Wolsey, preparatory to the entire destruction of such institutions by the tyrannical and rapacious Henry the Eighth.

The church of the monastery was afterwards made parochial, but was taken down a few years back and a new edifice erected. Some part of the monastic buildings, supposed to have been the refectory, is still remaining, and exhibits the pointed style of architecture.

The manufacture of silk stockings affords employment to many inhabitants of this town.

At the distance of half a mile from Daventry, towards the south, is *Borough Hill* (locally termed *Dane's Hill*), a place of no ordinary interest in the opinion of the antiquary. On the top of this elevation is an ancient *Encampment*, supposed to be unequalled in extent by any similar work in the kingdom. The shape is oblong, and the defensive outlines comprehend a greater or less number of ramparts and ditches, proportioned to the circumstances of the site. In length this camp is about one mile, but its extreme breadth is not more than a quarter of a mile. Some subdivisions and additional works will be perceived by the curious investigator.

In regard to the people with whom this encampment originated, antiquarians are divided in opinion. According to the most judicious calculations, it would, however, appear that this extensive and curious camp was originally constructed by the Britons, and successively occupied by the armies of various contending powers. So formidable was

this post, that it was adopted as a place of defence, even in times of warfare comparatively recent, the forces of Charles the First being stationed here previous to the battle of Naseby. The intrenchments have been much defaced and reduced, within these few years, by the operation of the plough.

The Parish of FAWSLEY, in the vicinity of Daventry, principally consists of the demesne and park attached to a mansion termed FAWSLEY HOUSE, the seat of the ancient family of Knightly. This structure has been erected in various ages, and each successive builder has looked with utter disregard on architectural consistency, viewing utility as the sole object of his common-place labours. It must be nearly superfluous to observe that such a mode of procedure was adapted to the domestic building on a dependant farm, rather than to the manorial residence.

The oldest parts of this mansion display, in bold and curious features, the manners of former times. The Hall, once the seat of nearly unlimited hospitality, is fifty-two feet in length, and very lofty, the ceil-work of timber exhibiting abundant carvings. The windows are enriched with armorial devices; fragile memorials of families connected with the ancient lords of this domain by ties of intermarriage. The attached park is of considerable extent, and is richly adorned with fine masses of

wood and well disposed pieces of ornamental water.

Fawsley claims as a native *Dr. John Wilkins*, Bishop of Chester. This divine was brother-in-law to Oliver Cromwell, and derived many advantages from his connexion with so distinguished a character. His real merits preserved him from ruin on the Restoration, and he was advanced to the mitre by Charles the Second. The Royal Society originated in meetings of philosophical and literary persons held under the auspices of Dr. Wilkins, during the troubled times of Cromwell's protectorate.

The Parochial Church of STOWE, near Daventry, demands the attention of the topographical writer and curious traveller, on account of several interesting monuments, the most conspicuous of which is dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth, fourth daughter of John Lord Latimer and wife of Sir John Danvers. This celebrated monument was erected during the life-time of Lady Elizabeth, and was executed by Nicholas Stone, about the year 1617. Mr. Pennant styles it "the most elegant "tomb that this or any other kingdom can boast "of;" and the sculpture certainly possesses unusual merit. The monument is of the table or altar kind; and the figure of the Lady Elizabeth, in white alabaster, is placed recumbent on a black

slab. She is represented in the easy attitude and breathing character of a person sleeping. Her head reclines on a cushion; one hand is placed on her breast, and the other lies by her side. The face appears to be a portrait of the lady, and was probably executed from a cast. The spectator will scarcely fail to observe that the *simplicity* of this monumental design is the principal source of attraction.

Edgcote House, situated in the small parish of Edgcote, was formerly the residence of the celebrated Thomas Lord Cromwell, Earl of Essex, Vicar-general to King Henry the Eighth. This mansion has been partially modernized, but still exhibits many traces of the building erected by Lord Cromwell. The most ancient parts are situated towards the back of the structure. A saloon above stairs, the floor of which is *flagged*, and the very curious kitchen, are peculiarly worthy of notice.

Castle Ashby, the seat of the Earl of Northampton, is situated in the eastern part of the county, near the northern extremity of Yardley Chase, through which fine extent of woodland is a wide avenue, more than three miles in length, forming an approach to the south front of the mansion. This spacious building is placed on the brow of a gentle eminence, and is believed to have been commenced, on the site of a more ancient edifice, in the reign of

Elizabeth. Considerable additions were made in succeeding ages, and the whole structure has been recently renovated, and adapted to the refined habits of modern times.

The buildings surround a quadrangular court, having a screen of two stories on the southern side, after a design of Inigo Jones. This screen consists of a piazza, surmounted by a long gallery. At two angles of the court are lofty octangular towers, the parapets of which (in common with the whole parapet of the court) are formed by stones, cut in the shape of letters, which repeat this text:—"NISI "DOMINUS ÆDIFICAVERIT DOMUM, IN VANUM "LABORAVERUNT QUI ÆDIFICANT EAM." Many curious portraits are preserved in this mansion; and the libraries contain numerous rare and valuable books. Several parts of the park scenery were arranged under the direction of Brown.

HORTON HOUSE, [156] the seat of Sir Robert Gunning, Bart. is a spacious and handsome structure, surrounded by a well-wooded park, of eminent beauty. The principal front is situated towards the east, and is represented in the annexed engraving. At Horton was born, in the year 1661, Charles Montague, the first Earl of Halifax, celebrated as the author of several satirical poems, which greatly conduced to his political advancement, and consequent elevation to the peerage.

ALTHORPE, near Northampton, the seat of Earl Spencer, was built by the Earl of Sunderland, in the year 1688. The house occupies three sides of a quadrangle, and is a spacious but weighty and inelegant pile. The interior, however, presents many objects of great interest. Earl Spencer is well known to possess one of the finest collections of rare books ever made by an individual in this country. The greater part of this stupendous assemblage of literary and typographical curiosities is preserved in his lordship's London residence, and at Wimbledon in Surrey. But the library of Althorpe is still inconceivably rich in choice works, collected with consummate judgment, and with an utter disregard of expense. The pictures are also numerous, and many are select performances of the best masters.

The Church of BRINGTON (ordinarily pronounced *Briton*), in which parish the mansion of Althorpe is situated, contains several stately monuments to different members of the Spencer family.

NASEBY, or NAVESBY, formerly a market-town, is now reduced to the character of a small and humble village. It has been supposed that this village stands upon the highest ground in England; but such an assertion appears to be founded on curious conjecture, rather than on demonstrative calculation. It may be remarked that Studbury Hill, in the parish of Staverton, in this county, is

also familiarly asserted to be the most elevated spot of English ground.

The vicinity of Naseby is rendered of less equivocal importance in the esteem of the topographer, by the memorable battle fought here between the royal and parliamentarian forces, on the 14th of June, 1645. The principal historic features of this decisive conflict, in which, according to Lord Clarendon, "were lost both the king and the king-"dom," are thus poetically described by the elegant pen of the Bishop of Cloyne :—

" Where yon blue field scarce meets our streaming eyes,
" A fatal name for England, NASEBY lies.
" There hapless Charles beheld his fortunes cross'd,
" His forces vanquish'd, and his kingdom lost.
" There gallant Lisle, a mark for thousands stood,
" And Dormer seal'd his loyalty in blood;
" Whilst down yon hill's steep side, with headlong force,
" Victorious Cromwell chac'd the northern horse.
" Hence anarchy our church and state profan'd,
" And tyrants in the mask of freedom reign'd.
" In times like these, when party bears command,
" And faction scatter'd discord through the land,
" Let these sad scenes an useful lesson yield,
" Lest future NASEBYS rise in every field."

The village of FOTHERINGAY, now consisting of one street, in which there are scarcely fifty houses, was once a town of considerable importance, protected by a noble Castle, and enriched by a well-endowed and distinguished religious foundation.

Fotheringay Castle appears to have been founded soon after the Norman conquest, but was rebuilt in the time of Edward the Third, by Edmund Langley, Duke of York. This fortress has attained a melancholy celebrity in history, on account of the imprisonment, trial, and execution, of Mary Queen of Scots. Whilst surveying the scene of her last sufferings a sigh of deep regret is due to the memory of this ill-fated Queen; but, when censuring the severity of Elizabeth, we should also remember the frailties and political intrigues of Mary. The embattled structure which witnessed this dreadful act of sacrifice is now reduced to the ground. On the accession of James to the throne of England, an order was issued for its demolition; and few remains are now perceptible, except the moats, and some faint denotations of the mount on which the keep was placed.

A *College for Seculars* was erected at Fotheringay by Edward, Duke of York, who commenced the buildings in the year 1412. The collegiate edifice was chiefly taken down in the reign of Edward the Sixth; but the western part of the Conventual Church, and some traces of the walls and cloisters, are still remaining.

Deene-Thorpe Park, the seat of the Earl of Cardigan, is agreeably situated on the borders of Rockingham forest. The house is an embattled structure, of low proportions; but the principal

apartments are spacious, and afford many curious examples of ancient arrangement. Numerous family portraits add to the interest of this venerable mansion.

PETERBOROUGH, or PETERBURGH, the seat of episcopacy in this county, is a small but well-built city. The inhabitants are not engaged in any branch of trade possessing so much local peculiarity as to demand distinct notice; and the prosperity of the place appears to have proceeded, in every age, from the wealth, splendour, and sanctity of religious foundations.

The ancient monastery of Peterborough (formerly styled *Medehamsted)* was distinguished, at an early period of the Anglo-Saxon dynasty, for extent of jurisdiction and amplitude of establishment. After experiencing various casualties, chiefly through the devastating inroads of the Danes, the monastic buildings were re-edified on a magnificent scale in the twelfth century; a circumstance worthy of attentive notice, as it appears to be connected with the architectural history of the present cathedral church.

The monastery was dissolved in 1540; and in the following year King Henry the Eighth conferred on Peterborough the dignity of an episcopal see, and converted the conventual church into a cathedral. The Anglo-Norman style of architecture prevails in this structure, and the plan corres-

ponds with that of other cathedral-churches described in previous pages. The most ancient part was probably erected shortly after 1116, in which year the monastic buildings were destroyed by fire.

From the central division rises a tower, open on the inside, and thus constituting the fabric of perforated masonry denominated a lantern. The west front is formed by a portico of three lofty arches, and is richly adorned with sculpture. This façade was constructed in the latter part of the thirteenth century. The choir exhibits the simple and weighty style of Norman buildings, and was completed in 1143. The transept is of a similar character, and nearly of the same date. The western part of the nave displays growing improvements in architectural design, and was finished about the year 1288. At the eastern extremity of the choir is a fabric of much florid beauty, termed the *New Building*, which was erected in the fifteenth century, and is said to have been designed by Sir Reginald Bray, whose works at Windsor, and in the chapel of Henry the Seventh at Westminster, reflect great renown on his architectural talents.

Amongst illustrious persons buried in this church must be noticed *Queen Katherine*, the first and rejected wife of Henry the Eighth. This victim of regal tyranny and caprice was interred between two pillars, on the north side of the choir, near the

altar. The remains of *Mary Queen of Scots* were deposited in a vault of this cathedral, directly subsequent to her execution. Twenty-five years afterwards they were removed, by order of James the First, and were then conducted to their present dignified place of sepulture, the chapel of King Henry the Seventh.

The *Close*, situated to the west of the cathedral, presents a scene of much gratification to the antiquarian visitor. This former sacred precinct of the episcopal edifice, is nearly surrounded by impressive vestiges of the ancient monastic buildings. To the south of the cathedral are some remains of a spacious cloister, formerly the ambulatory of the conventual institution dissolved by Henry the Eighth.

It may be remarked, that Peterborough is the only city in England without those dignified civil authorities, a mayor and aldermen.

Burleigh, the seat of the Cecil family, now the property and residence of the Marquis of Exeter, is a noble and curious example of the style in domestic architecture which prevailed in the sixteenth century. The fine attached demesne was imparked, and the house chiefly erected, by the Lord Treasurer Burleigh, in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The mansion surrounds a square court, and displays, in every principal part, an instructive assemblage of the venerable peculiarities of arrange-

ment which characterize the mode of architecture often denominated *Elizabethan*. The paintings, and other valuable works of art, which enrich this superb residence, are extremely numerous, and calculated to gratify examiners of the most refined taste. The park abounds in rich and diversified scenery, improved, in some instances, under the direction of Brown. [156*] The Grand Entrance appears to have been constructed in the year 1587.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

This county lies at the northern extremity of England, and constituted a kingdom of considerable importance on the division of South Britain amongst our Saxon conquerors. It has since been reduced in extent, but is still of superior dimensions to most English counties. On the north and north-west it meets Scotland; on the south-west it unites with Cumberland. Durham forms its confines on the south; and the whole of its eastern border is washed by the German Ocean. The greatest length from north to south is about seventy miles, and its extreme breadth not less than forty.

Considerable variety of aspect occurs in this large extent of surface. On the seacoast the country is chiefly level. Towards the centre of the county the surface is agreeably diversified by hills of dissimilar altitude, which rise from the margin of the principal rivers. Many tracts dispersed amongst these undulations possess much picturesque beauty, and repay the toils of the husbandman with plentiful harvests. But such is not the prevailing character of the county: the western part

is chiefly a dreary scene of mountainous waste, or melancholy expanse of useless heath.

Of the mountainous districts the Cheviot Hills (famed in poetical story) are the most estimable. These elevations, although barren towards the summit, are verdant in the regions first approached. They assume a countless variety of forms, and enclose in the deep mazes of their involutions sequestered glens, unspeakably soothing and lovely.

The climate is severe in its vicissitudes, but not altogether unfavourable to vegetation. The seasons, however, are invariably later than in the southern counties; and it has been remarked "that "the autumn of the year is the summer of Nor-"thumberland."

The northern outlines of this county assisted in forming the boundary of the permament conquests of the Romans in Britain. Those august invaders struck a line of demarkation from coast to coast, for the protection of their southern territories in this island. Remains of the stupendous WALL which they constructed still exist, although in the last stage of decay. This formidable rampart was lined with fortresses, garrisoned by the most distinguished of the veteran legions. On the confines of the wall, and throughout the whole northern part of the county, are frequently discovered relics of Roman occupancy, truly gratifying to the historian and the antiquary.

When the Romans quitted our island, and the inhabitants of the south yielded to less generous invaders, Northumberland still constituted the frontier of national contention. The *Border conflicts*, in which the inhabitants were engaged during the middle ages, are obviously offensive to recollection, although softened by poetical blandishment both ancient and modern. The distrust and terror in which the Northumbrians existed in those barbarous times, are curiously evinced by many remains of domestic buildings of a defensible character. Some noble specimens of castellated architecture are dispersed through various parts of the county, and act as dignified memorials of historic events connected with the Percys, and other northern barons, whose exploits are familiar with every reader.

The modern importance of Northumberland chiefly proceeds from those mineral treasures which lie plentifully imbedded beneath its rugged surface. Lead ore is here discovered in great abundance, and iron stone is found in inexhaustible quantities. But the *Pit-coal* of this county is its most important produce, and constitutes the great staple of its trade. The best strata of this valuable mineral are included in a line drawn from Alnemouth, by the sea-coast, to Tynemouth, and from thence, by the southern boundary of the county, into the parish of Bywell, comprehending tracts immediately adja-

cent. From the mines of Northumberland the metropolis, and the principal towns in the southern parts of the kingdom, have been chiefly supplied with coals throughout several centuries; and the navigation of the vessels employed in conveying this article is a nursery for some of the best seamen in the British navy.

The principal rivers of Northumberland are the Tyne, the Coquet, the Wansbeck, the Alne, and the Tweed.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, the principal town in the north of England, was a Roman station, situated at the eastern end of that great wall which the Romans constructed for the protection of South Britain. Shortly after the year 1080, a *Castle* of great strength was erected at this place, under the direction of Robert, son of William the Conqueror, upon the site of an ancient and less important fortress. From this *New* military edifice the present town derives its name. During the long and sanguinary wars between the English and the Scots, Newcastle was estimable as a military position. In the happier times which have succeeded, its commercial opportunities have rendered it a favourite spot of mercantile enterprise and industrious exertion.

Although this large and populous town contains numerous public buildings, superior to those seen in most provincial places, its general aspect is re-

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spectable rather than inviting. The solid advantages arising from trade have, however, enabled the inhabitants to effect many recent improvements, and more are projected. Besides the benefit derived from a central situation in regard to the great collieries, this port enjoys a considerable foreign trade; and numerous manufactures are cultivated in the town and immediate neighbourhood.

The principal historical events connected with this place are involved in a notice of such existing structures, or ruinous vestiges of antiquity, as are calculated to attract the primary attention of the traveller and topographical student.

It is unquestionable that the station of the Romans was encompassed by a defensive outline; but the *Walls* of the modern town were commenced in the reign of Edward the First. They were formerly guarded by a fosse, now filled up, and had seven portals, of which that termed New-gate still remains, and is used as the town prison.

The *Castle*, erected in the time of the Conqueror, was garrisoned, in opposition to the Normans, by Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, but was besieged and subdued by King William Rufus. Many stately ceremonials occur in its future history, but no military event requires notice, until the civil wars of the seventeenth century. In the year 1644 the town of Newcastle yielded to the Scots, but not until the inhabitants had signalized

their loyalty and valour by a spirited resistance. The Castle still held out for several days, and was not at last surrendered without a dreadful slaughter amongst the assailants. This fortress anciently consisted of a square keep, or principal tower, surrounded by an outer and an inner wall. Although greatly defaced by war, or altered by repairs or decay, the structure still exhibits the broad and decisive lineaments of Norman architecture. Little now remains of the outer walls; but the great central tower is still preserved, and is about eighty feet in height. The *Dungeon* of this curious fabric has been used, for many ages, as the county prison for Northumberland during the time of the assizes; and adjoining to that dreary recess, on the east side, is a Chapel, of fine proportions and beautiful architecture.

Newcastle was anciently distinguished for the number of its conventual buildings and religious hospitals. Some few remains of these edifices are still existing.

During those insecure times in which England and Scotland were perpetually engaged in border warfare, many northern barons deemed it desirable, if not absolutely necessary, to have mansions within the strong walls of this town. Some vestiges of these structures are to be seen, the most conspicuous relic being the "house of the Earl of Northumberland, situated in *the Close*, which, in the

"lower part, towards the river, shews manifest "signs of antiquity."

Amongst domestic buildings of a less remote, but still of an ancient character, must be mentioned *Anderson Place* [157]. This building was partly erected in 1580, by Robert Anderson, Esq. out of the offices, and nearly upon the site, of a Franciscan priory. Two wings were added in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and considerable alterations have been effected, invariably to the improvement of the building and its attached grounds, by Major Anderson, the present respectable proprietor. General Levin fixed his head quarters in this mansion, during the captivity of King Charles the First in Newcastle.

The *Parochial Churches* are four in number. That dedicated to *St. Nicholas* is of the greatest architectural interest, and is supposed to have been chiefly built about the year 1359. The interior possesses much beauty, but several interesting features of antiquity, and numerous funeral monuments, which piety should have respected if the ordinary feelings of humanity lay dormant, were destroyed when the church was newly "fitted-up" and "beautified" in 1783. The steeple is at once elegant and curious. From a square tower, which appears to form part of the original edifice erected in the fourteenth century, spring flying buttresses, that intersect each other at right angles, and sup-

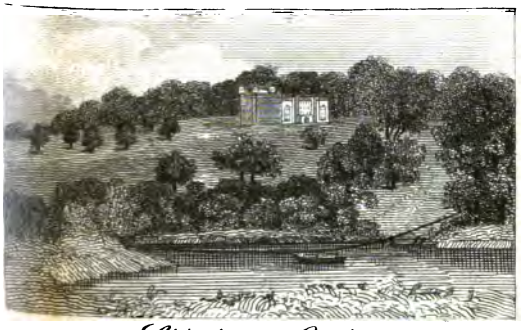
7

Anderson Place. Newcastle.

8

Newcastle Bridge.

10



Chipchase Castle.

port a perforated turret of stone, surmounted by an ornamented pinnacle. This pleasing, but fanciful, portion of the structure is believed to have been added in the reign of Henry the Sixth.

The church of *All-Saints* was rebuilt in 1783, at the expense of about £27,000. This building is of a circular form, and is fitted up with great elegance.

The Courts of Justice were lately held in a building within the precincts of the Castle, ill-suited to the opulence and respectability of the town. An eligible structure, termed the *New Courts*, was commenced in the year 1810, to which the late Duke of Northumberland, the patron of every useful or ornamental undertaking presented to his notice, contributed the sum of three thousand pounds. This extensive building is of the Doric order, and is admirably adapted to its intended purposes.

The *Exchange* was built in 1658, but has undergone many recent alterations. The fronts are now cased with freestone. The *Bridge* [158] at Newcastle is three hundred feet in length, and comprises nine arches. This fabric was completed in the year 1781.

The *Mansion-House*, or residence of the Mayor, was built in 1691, at the expense of £6,000. Amongst other allowances, the Mayor has a state-

coach, a barge, and £1,300 towards the expense incurred by official hospitality.

The Charitable Institutions are proportioned to the opulence of the principal inhabitants. The Infirmary, situated on the west side of the town, was first established in 1751. The buildings were augmented in 1803, and are now of an eligible description. A Dispensary was instituted in 1777; and there are, also, several hospitals for the benefit of the aged, and for the relief of various classes of sufferers. The schools for gratuitous education are supported with great liberality.

We must not close our notice of Newcastle without observing that a Literary and Philosophical Society was instituted in the year 1793, and appears to be in a flourishing state. The Theatre, and other places of fashionable amusement, are superior to those in most towns equally remote from the metropolis.

The village of TYNEMOUTH is much frequented in the bathing season, and is provided with due accommodation for valetudinarian visitors. At this place are the remains of a Castle, and a monastic edifice, of great antiquity. The former building was erected soon after the Norman conquest. In the time of King William Rufus this castle underwent a siege, which lasted two months. In the civil wars of the seventeenth century it was placed

in a state of defence by the Earl of Newcastle, but surrendered to the force under General Levin, in 1644. On Colonel Lilburne's revolt, in 1648, the castle was taken by storm, and all who were found in arms within the walls were put to death. After long neglect the batteries were repaired, and the castle made a depôt for arms and military stores, in 1783.

The *Priory of Tynemouth* is said to have been founded in the reign of Edwin, King of Northumbria, whose daughter Rosella is believed to have taken the veil here. After suffering repeatedly from the ravages of the Danes, the priory was refounded by Earl Mowbray, in the year 1090. This institution was richly endowed, and the buildings were extensive and superb. The ruins exhibit various styles of architecture. Several of the arches are semicircular, and bear other marks of an Anglo-Norman origin; but the greater part of the edifice appears to have been rebuilt in the early part of the fourteenth century. *John of Tynemouth*, an eminent monkish writer, was born in this village, and passed his life in the monastery of his native place.

Seaton Delaval is a magnificent structure, built by Admiral Delaval, after a design of Sir John Vanbrugh. The mansion is situated upon a gentle slope, and is of such capacious proportions, that it is emphatically described as "being more

"like a royal palace, than the country seat of a "subject." The porticos, the hall, and the saloon, are the principal features of this edifice. The pictures chiefly consist of family portraits. The pleasure-grounds are extensive, but the surrounding country is of a flat and tame character.

CHIPCHASE CASTLE [159], the seat of John Reed, Esq. occupies one of the finest situations in this county. The contiguous scenery is, indeed, of exquisite beauty: the surface is agreeably diversified by hill and valley, and enriched by extensive plantations of flourishing wood. A fortified building on this spot was erected in a very remote age, and the chief tower of the ancient structure is still remaining. This curious part of the fabric is machicolated, and provided with other means of defence usual before the invention of gunpowder. The principal parts of the castle were added by the Heron family, about the year 1621. The apartments are fitted up with great splendour, and ornamented with some excellent paintings by the best ancient masters.

The town of HEXHAM is situated on the southern banks of the river Tyne. The streets are narrow, and the buildings generally ineligible. The manufacture of hats, tanned leather, and gloves, is here cultivated to a considerable extent.

It is believed that this town constituted a Roman station, but the most important events in its history

are connected with Anglo-Saxon ages. In the year 674, Hexham was made the see of a bishop, by Wilfrid, Archbishop of York; and the cathedral erected by that celebrated prelate was considered "the most beautiful fabric on this side the "Alps."

The bishopric was afterwards abolished, and the church fell into utter decay. A Priory was founded here in 1113, and the church was rebuilt about the time of Henry the Second. The architecture of the present structure displays that curious, but graceless, mixture of styles, which prevailed in the latter part of the twelfth century. The western part of this church was burnt by the Scots, in 1296. The choir is roofed with wood, and a spacious triforium, or stone gallery, runs round the whole building.

In the vicinity of Hexham, at a place called *the Linhills*, the Marquis of Montague, general of the forces of Edward the Fourth, obtained a decisive victory over the army of Henry the Sixth, in the year 1464. The Duke of Somerset, who commanded the Lancastrians, was taken prisoner, and beheaded, with several other captives of distinction. Queen Margaret and her son escaped with much difficulty, and after experiencing many adventures, procured a passage to the continent. A spot near the field of battle, since termed the

Queen's Cave, is said to have afforded shelter to Margaret during a part of the tumult consequent on defeat.

The ruins of BOTHAL CASTLE [160] occupy a natural eminence in the bosom of a deep vale, watered on the south by the river Wansbeck. The barony of Bothal was the ancient possession of the Bertram family, and it is usually said that the castle was built by Sir Robert Bertram, in the reign of Edward the Third. The estate was afterwards possessed by the family of Ogle, and is now the property of the Duke of Portland. History furnishes no events, of general interest, connected with this dilapidated pile.

BRINKBURN PRIORY, on the northern margin of the river Coquet, was founded in the reign of Henry the First, by Roger, Baron of Mitford. The ruins chiefly consist of extensive vestiges of the church, and are in the earliest mode of pointed architecture, intermixed with traces of the massive and circular style.

The ancient borough of WARKWORTH now wears the tranquil aspect of a large village. The *Castle* at this place was long the favourite residence of the Earl of Northumberland, but was deserted soon after the reign of Henry the Eighth, and is now in a state of ruin. But it is magnificent even in decay! This castle is situated on a rock, and

five acres are comprised within the moat. The keep is square, and contains a chapel, and the relics of numerous splendid apartments.

At the distance of about half a mile from the castle, on the banks of the river Coquet, is the HERMITAGE OF WARKWORTH, which has become an object of much poetical interest, in consequence of the ballad termed the *Hermit of Warkworth*, which was written in 1771, by the Bishop of Dromore.

This religious foundation was designed for a solitary priest, or hermit; but the date of its foundation is not correctly ascertained. The remains of the building are considerable; but the most perfect and curious parts consist of a chapel, sacristy, and vestibule, hewn out of a freestone rock, which is overshadowed with shrubs and forest trees. The chapel is about eighteen feet long, and seven feet broad and high. The columns, groin-work, and arches, are executed with great neatness, and with impressive simplicity. It is lighted by a window of two compartments; in the sill of which lies the elegant figure of a lady; at her feet, in a niche, is a male figure, kneeling. In the pillar of the window is the obscure representation of a third figure. A stair-way led from the chapel-door to the top of the cliff, on which were situated the house and garden of the solitary ecclesiastic, or hermit.

ALNWICK, the county town of this district, derives its principal interest from the magnificent CASTLE belonging to the ducal family of Northumberland. This place was greatly exposed to the incursions of the Scots, before that turbulent people were placed under the sway of the English sceptre. In those times of trouble, Alnwick was encompassed by a wall, three gateway-towers of which are still remaining.

The whole town is replete with instances of the magnificent benevolence of the late Duke of Northumberland. The most pleasing memorials of this excellent nobleman's generosity are contained in the habitations of the poor, which were rendered cheerful by his fostering hand. When the voice of contemporary gratitude shall be mute, his attention to the welfare of this town will be commemorated by the following inscription on a charity-school of great utility:—"For the education of 200 poor boys, this school was erected and founded by Hugh, Duke of Northumberland, on the twenty-fifth day of October, 1810; in commemoration of our sovereign, George the Third, having on that day completed the fiftieth year of his reign."

On a fine knoll adjoining the road, near the south entrance to Alnwick, is a column, eighty-three feet in height, erected by the agricultural tenants of the late Duke, in grateful commemoration of his excellence as a landlord. The site of

the column is favourable to the erection, and the lofty head of this fine monument proclaims, through a long extent of country, the blessings derived from the GOOD DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, and the honourable gratitude of those who experienced his liberality.

ALNWICK CASTLE, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, is the most magnificent castle in Great Britain that is inhabited at the present time, with the exception of the regal castellated palace of Windsor. This august pile is seated on a fine elevation, which rises gradually from the south side of the river Alne. The buildings are believed to comprise some remains of a fortress erected in an Anglo-Saxon age, but were chiefly re-edified in the fourteenth century. The castle area is divided into three courts, entered through gateways formed in lofty towers. The keep, or citadel, is of vast magnitude, and acquires some peculiar points of architectural beauty, from "fair semicircular towers," which protect and adorn it on every side.

The whole edifice was renovated by the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, in the eighteenth century, and is now arranged in a style of internal magnificence suited to the dignified uses of the family in modern times; but the hand of restoration was guided by an admirable correctness of taste, and veneration of antiquity. The principal

features of the building still display, with unspeakable sublimity, the mode of castellated architecture which prevailed in the time of the third Edward. It is truly gratifying to find so noble a monument of ancient baronial splendour possessed by descendants of former hospitable lords, who reflect more lustre on "long-drawn" lineage than they derive from the merits of ancestry. The present Duke receives from his illustrious father so noble an example of all the accomplishments which impart real dignity to exalted rank, that the world may securely anticipate, in his person, the exercise of a princely spirit, directed by cool discretion and refined good sense.

Alnwick Abbey is beautifully situated on the northern bank of the river Alne. This was the first monastery of the Premonstratensians erected in England, and received its charter of foundation in the year 1147, from Eustace Fitz John, who took the surname of Vescy. The endowment was noble, and the Abbot was frequently summoned to Parliament. Subsequent to the dissolution of monastic houses, the buildings of the abbey constituted a private residence, and are now the property of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland. A gateway-tower presents the chief vestige of the ancient structure, and displays, amongst other embellishments, armorial shields of the Percy family.

The CASTLE OF BAMBURGH stands upon a basalt rock, which is lofty, rugged, and abrupt, on the side towards the land. The sea laves the eastern base of this high rock, and the fortress was chiefly accessible to an enemy on the south-east, where the approach is guarded by a deep dry ditch, and a line of formidable towers. The rock is beautifully sprinkled with lichens, of innumerable tints, and rises 150 feet above the level of the sea.

The ruins of the Castle are extensive, and comprise the square and majestic keep, its outer gateway flanked with towers, long ranges of embattled wall, and various other relics of fortification.

The period at which this fortress was erected, has afforded a fertile theme of disquisition to antiquarian writers. It is known that a royal castle existed on this site in an early age of the Saxon Octarchy, and some persons have been desirous of supposing that vestiges of a fabric thus ancient are to be found in the present edifice. It must be evident that opinions so bold are founded entirely on conjectural data; and it would appear that the structure does not really possess any variations from the military architecture practised between the era of the Norman conquest and the time of Henry the Second. The ancient castle underwent a memorable siege from Penda, king of Mercia; and several writers assert that the building was rased to the ground by the Danes, in 993. That the structure

was formidable in years briefly subsequent to the Conquest is certain, from the acknowledged fact of William Rufus having here besieged Earl Mowbray, during the unhappy rebellion of that nobleman. The castle was superior to the open assaults of King William, but was yielded through a political consideration. In the civil war of the Roses, and shortly after the battle of Hexham, this fortress experienced a siege greatly destructive of the buildings.

The castle and manor of Bamburgh were bequeathed to charitable uses by Nathaniel Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, in the year 1720. A large part of the structure has since been so far restored as to admit of inhabitation; and the trustees under the will of the bishop now reside here in turn, and at their own expense.

It affords a subject of cordial gratification to behold this venerable fortress, thus reclaimed from ruin, and appropriated to purposes of the most wise and benevolent character. A suite of rooms is allotted to the reception of twenty poor girls, who are educated, lodged, and clothed, from the funds of Bishop Crewe's charity. An Infirmary is likewise established within the castle. In consideration of the great dangers of the neighbouring coast, signals are used in stormy weather, to warn vessels of the points productive of the greatest peril. A life-boat is always in readiness, and beds

are provided for shipwrecked mariners. The heart glows over a scene of such exemplary sympathy with the wants and sufferings of human nature!

The village of BRANXTON, near the north-eastern border of this county, has attained much historical interest from the *Battle of Flodden* (sometimes termed the *Battle of Branxton*), which was fought in its immediate vicinity. This memorable action took place on the ninth of September, 1513; and it is well known that the English army under the Earl of Surrey obtained a complete victory over the Scottish forces, commanded by King James the Fourth. The main scene of contest lay near Branxton, and the Scotch king fell in the neighbourhood of this village. His body was found on the following day by Lord Dacre, and was afterwards interred at Sheene. In *Brankton West-field* is a rough upright column of basalt, placed there as a memorial of this celebrated victory. In the year 1810, some workmen, digging in the contiguous tract of land named *Flodden Field*, discovered a pit filled with human bones, which appeared to be of great extent.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, situated near the northern point of the seacoast of Northumberland, was a place of considerable consequence during the wars between the English and the Scots. The town sustained numerous sieges in those disastrous times, and was alternately possessed by each of the

contending parties. One of the last regular investments of this place occurred in 1406, when the Earl of Northumberland defended Berwick against the arms of King Henry the Fourth. On this occasion, it is said "that a cannon-shot, the first that was ever fired in England, so alarmed the garrison, that it immediately surrendered." The town was encompassed with walls at an early period, and was protected by a castle of considerable strength. The walls were rebuilt, in many parts, so lately as the eighteenth century. The castle is now nearly levelled with the ground, but the ruins are extensive, and evince the former importance of the structure.

This large and populous town appears to have been one of the original four Scotch burghs. It came permanently into the possession of the English crown in 1482, but has never been annexed to a local jurisdiction, and is separately named when mentioned in public acts. Here are barracks of considerable extent, and a saluting battery. The harbour admits vessels of a moderate burthen only, but has lately received the advantage of an eligible pier, constructed on the site of one built in the time of Elizabeth. The inhabitants are largely engaged in the salmon fishery of the river Tweed, and likewise export great quantities of corn and eggs for the London market. The foreign commerce is by no means extensive.

The public buildings of Berwick possess a mediocrity of character. The parochial church stands on the north side of a fine area called the Parade, and was rebuilt in the seventeenth century. The Town-Hall was erected in 1754. On the ground-floor is a piazza, dignified with the name of an Exchange. The second floor comprises two spacious halls for the use of the corporation. The upper story is the common gaol of the town! The bridge of Berwick was rebuilt in the time of James the First, and is an elegant structure, consisting of fifteen arches, the whole length being 388 yards.

At *Hallidon Hill*, about one mile to the north-west of Berwick, King Edward the Third defeated the Scots, with great slaughter, in the year 1333.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded by Yorkshire on the north, by Lincolnshire on the east, by the county of Leicester on the south, and by that of Derby on the west. Its greatest length is about fifty miles, and its extreme breadth nearly twenty-seven. Although situated towards the north of England, the seasons in this county are scarcely of later occurrence than in the southern districts of the island; a circumstance that has been attributed to the dryness of the climate.

The pictorial examiner will not appreciate highly the character of a country which prevails in Nottinghamshire. The surface is almost generally unequal, but the swells of land are seldom of sufficient altitude to merit the denomination of hills. A tender but tame uniformity reigns throughout the principal districts, more favourable to the labours of the agriculturalist than gratifying to the tasteful investigator, who has no particular interest in the soil. The boldest scenery is witnessed in the northern parts of the county.

A large portion of the north-western side of Nottinghamshire is occupied by the Forest of Sherwood. This district, "anciently thick set with "trees, whose entangled branches were so twisted "together that they hardly left room for a single "person to pass," is now deprived, nearly through all its recesses, of the majesty of forest scenery. It still, however, abounds in sylvan beauties. The denuded spaces are used for pasturage; are enclosed and rendered the abode of peaceful agricultural labour; or suffered to lie in wild extents of heath, unprofitable, but affording a striking effect of pictorial contrast. The most attractive part of the present forest-lands consists of tracts partially devoted to pasturage, yet still sprinkled with trees of various growth. The soft, the animated, and the grand, of sylvan beauty are here displayed in endless variety. Bordering on the forest-land are several enclosed parks, which contain some fine specimens of ancient timber. The proprietors of those domains have, likewise, recently made numerous plantations towards the restoration of such contiguous parts of the forest as are subject to their influence.

The reader will scarcely fail to recollect that Sherwood Forest is said, by many legendary and by some historical writers, to have been the principal haunt of a personage greatly renowned in nursery and popular annals—the generous free-

booter termed *Robin Hood*. This "gentle thief" is believed to have flourished in the reigns of Richard the First and John; and the exploits of himself, "Little John" his trusty companion, and their band of valorous and skilful archers, add a species of traditioned charm to Sherwood Forest, which amuses the fancy, in contempt of our better judgment. Some authors have doubted whether such a person did really ever exist; but there appears sufficient historical testimony for believing that this unauthorized ranger of Sherwood is not entirely a fabulous hero. That part of his legend which describes him as having possessed the earldom of Huntingdon, is decidedly erroneous; and he was, probably, nothing more than the most conspicuous of those licentious outcasts of society, who took advantage of the freedom of manners which prevailed in the twelfth century, and whose acts of spoliation were sometimes sanctioned by contentious barons.

Nottinghamshire has acquired considerable distinction as a manufacturing county. The stocking manufactory has long constituted a staple branch of trade. Cotton and worsted mills, evidently connected with the above pursuit, are now worked on an extensive scale. Silk mills are also established at Nottingham; and the manufactures of thread and British lace are cultivated with much assiduity, but not with correspondent success.

This county contains numerous fine seats, and affords several beautiful examples of ancient ecclesiastical architecture.

The principal rivers are the Trent (which ranks as the fourth capital river of England), the Idle, and the Lene.

The town of NOTTINGHAM is situated on a soft rock, covered with a sandy soil, in the south-west part of the county. Its inequality of site produces several peculiarities of arrangement, which seldom fail to create surprise in the traveller. A modern tourist observes that "the stranger is struck with the novelty of the prospect, when in one part he contemplates three tiers of streets, each overlooking the one immediately below it, and many of the houses in these streets with apartments cut into the rock, below the cellars of the superior ones."

The distant view of this town, at several points of approach, is extremely prepossessing; and, on a more close examination, the public structures are found to be uniformly respectable, whilst many of the domestic buildings are of an eligible character. We plainly discover, however, in nearly every street, that we are in a manufacturing place, and that convenience, rather than elegance, is consequently the chief object of pursuit with the inhabitants. Exceptions to such a remark are found in some recent improvements, and the more ancient domestic buildings are frequently objects of real

curiosity, on account of deep and extensive excavations worked into the rock on which their foundation is placed. So unusually great are the dimensions of these cellars, which sometimes range in long succession, that Dr. Dering, the historian of Nottingham, supposes it to be questionable, "whether the solid contents of what is erected "on the top would fill up the cavities under "ground."

The origin of this town has been ascribed by several writers to the times of the ancient Britons; but the chief authority for such an assertion would appear to consist in those laborious, but rude, excavations which abound in the town and its vicinity. The most industrious antiquarians have failed in their efforts to prove that the Roman conquerors of the Britons fixed a station on this site; and the first uncontested page in the history of Nottingham bears the date of the seventh century, when the town rose to some consideration under the auspices of the Anglo-Saxons.

A castle was either rebuilt or founded here by William the Conqueror, which afterwards became the scene of many important events. In the twelfth century, this fortress was garrisoned in opposition to the interest of Richard the First, and underwent a siege from that king. In the year 1330, the young king, Edward the Third, performed the first decided act which established him

on the throne, by seizing, in the castle of Nottingham, Mortimer Earl of March.

When every effort towards conciliation proved ineffective, during the convulsions of the seventeenth century, the unfortunate Charles the First raised his standard within the confines of this fortress. The town, however, soon fell into the possession of the parliament, and remained favourable to the popular side of the question throughout the whole of the subsequent civil wars.

The most important events, of a general and military character, are stated in the preceding paragraphs. Our attention is now demanded to the manufacturing and commercial pursuits of this town. The stocking manufactory is the most prominent object of local industry; and the various branches of this manufacture afford employment to the greater number of the labouring inhabitants. It may be desirable to remind the reader, that the stocking frame (a machine so conducive to the prosperity of Nottingham) was invented in the reign of Elizabeth, by a clergyman named William Lee. According to current tradition, Mr. Lee, whilst a curate on a small stipend, projected this simple but ingenious piece of machinery, with the sole immediate view of relieving his industrious wife from the tedious labour of knitting stockings by the hand.

The manufacture of lace is also cultivated here to some extent, but is scarcely worthy of notice amongst the great trading objects of the inhabitants. The malting business of Nottingham has flourished from a very early period; and, connected with this branch of trade, it must be observed that the ale here brewed is of a very superior quality. Even the antiquary Stukely praised its "softness and pleasant taste;" not forgetting to attribute a great portion of those good qualities to the depth and coolness of those curious cellars, which he supposes to have been partly excavated by the ancient Britons.

Nottingham was formerly encompassed by fortified walls, scarcely any traces of which are now remaining. The *Castle*, [161] which we have already traced through several important eras of history, was dismantled and reduced nearly to the ground by order of Oliver Cromwell. Shortly subsequent to the restoration, a re-edification of the structure was commenced by the Duke of Newcastle, and was completed, according to his plan, in about five years. This building is seated on a rock of considerable elevation, but has, in its present form, little claim to the character of a castle, except through courtesy of denomination. The north-east front, which displays the principal efforts of the architect, is of the Corinthian order. The

other sides of the building are less decorated, but are also constructed after classical designs; and the whole building is surrounded with a terrace.

This spacious edifice is at present deserted by the noble family to whom it belongs, and is in the occupation of private families. The attached *Park* comprises about 130 acres, and chiefly demands notice on account of a curious range of *caves*, situated to the west of the castle, in a cliff near the banks of the river Lene. Concerning the formation of these caverns, no record is extant. They are supposed to represent, and to have constituted, a place of religious worship, and several contiguous habitations.

The town of Nottingham contains three parish churches, and one extra-parochial chapel, lately built on part of the ground appertaining to the castle. The church of *St. Mary* is situated upon an eminence, and presents a commanding appearance to the spectator in nearly every direction. This structure is of a cruciform character, and displays in many parts the massive style of the Anglo-Normans. From the centre rises a fine tower, which appears to have been erected about the time of Henry the Seventh. *St. Peter's* church also contains some vestiges of circular architecture, but has been greatly altered in the course of numerous repairs. The church dedicated to *St. Nicholas* was entirely taken down in the time of the

civil wars, by order of the fanatical governor, Colonel Julius Hutchinson. The fabric thus contumeliously destroyed was rebuilt in the year 1678, and has been since enlarged; but the whole structure possesses little architectural interest.

The County Hall is a commodious and handsome edifice, erected in 1770. The Town Hall, appropriated to the public business of the town, and the county of the town, of Nottingham, is a spacious building, comprising three stories, the town-prison occupying the ground floor. The gaols for the county and town are well suited to their dreary purposes. The market-place is of a character peculiarly eligible, and is believed to be one of the most spacious in the kingdom. At the east end of the market-place is a handsome brick building, termed the New Exchange, which was erected by the corporation, in the early part of the last century. The front is supported by a range of stone pillars, forming an open parade.

Amongst public structures must be noticed the *bridge* of stone which crosses the river Trent, and comprises twenty arches. This fabric was erected towards the close of the seventeenth century.

The charitable institutions are numerous, and it should be mentioned, to the honour of the town, that those of a modern foundation are pre-eminent in extent and utility of design. The *General Infirmary* is a spacious and truly respectable building,

founded in 1781, and "open to the sick and poor of any country!" The Lunatic Asylum, which is on a comprehensive and judicious plan, was opened for the admission of patients in the year 1812. The Free Grammar School was founded in 1513, by Agnes Mellors, the widow of a wealthy bell-founder of Nottingham; and numerous other schools for gratuitous education, recently instituted, denote, in the most grateful manner, the liberal spirit of the modern inhabitants.

As distinguished *natives* of this place, we must notice *Gilbert Wakefield*, who was born in the parsonage-house of St. Nicholas, in 1756; and *Henry Kirke White*, a genius of uncommon promise, who fell a sacrifice, at a youthful period of life, to the enthusiastic zeal with which he cultivated literary pursuits.

The village of SNEINTON presents the most curious object in the close vicinity of Nottingham. The "Caves" at this place constitute its chief attraction. A large part of the village consists of habitations constructed in a solid rock, many of which have stair-ways leading to gardens formed upon the surface. The appearance of these dwellings is unique and surprising, but they entirely depend for interest on singularity of character.

WOLLATON HALL, [162] at a short distance from Nottingham, on the borders of the river Trent, is a superb mansion of the quadrangular

form, erected in the reign of Elizabeth, by Sir Francis Willoughby. The house is situated on rising ground, and is composed of freestone; the style of architecture being that tasteless mixture of the ancient English and the Italian, which was introduced in the time of Henry the Eighth, and became generally prevalent in the reign of James the First. The interior was arranged in a similar mode, and still retains much of its original character. The principal apartments are extremely capacious, and are now enriched with many valuable paintings. The park abounds in natural beauties: the surface is finely unequal, and is adorned with picturesque combinations of wood and water.

Awthorpe Hall, a venerable pile of building, situated on a spot of deep retirement, derives some interest from its founder, Colonel Julius Hutchinson, a distinguished fanatic of the seventeenth century, whose memory has been lately revived by a biographical publication. This gloomy and enthusiastic person was one of those who sat in judgment on the ill-fated Charles the First, and was the parliamentary governor of Nottingham Castle. For some time subsequent to the Restoration, he secreted himself in the mansion now under notice; but was seized and imprisoned by order of government, in the year 1663, when many persons were taken up for presumed treasonable practices. The

house is spacious, and has numerous lofty and convenient apartments.

COLWICK HALL, the seat of the Musters family, occupies a flat situation, but is agreeably ornamented by contiguous scenery. The "silver "Trent" flows in front of the building, and behind it rise some fine and well wooded hills. The chief façade of the house comprises a central elevation of four Ionic columns, supporting a sculptured pediment. This mansion was erected after the design of Mr. Carr, of York, but is not calculated to reflect much credit on the talents of that architect. The style is entirely of a common-place description, and the fabric is much deformed by its protuberant roof; a relic of the fashion imported from the continent by Sir Christopher Wren, but judiciously discarded in his latter buildings.

The town of NEWARK possesses considerable historic interest, and presents, in its general aspect, a pleasing subject of investigation. The domestic buildings are chiefly of a respectable character, and the castle and church are deserving of deliberate examination.

There is room for doubting whether Newark constituted a Roman military station, but it appears to have formed an Anglo-Saxon town. Little, however, is really known concerning the history of this place previous to the reign of Stephen, at which time a castle was erected by Alexander,

Bishop of Lincoln, celebrated for his wealth, power, and numerous architectural works. In this fortress the ill-advised and tyrannical King John breathed his last; but whether his death proceeded from natural circumstances, or was accelerated by poison, as is usually believed, is a question still undetermined.

This place took a memorable and important part in the civil wars of the seventeenth century. It was then defended against several assaults of the popular party, but was eventually surrendered to the Scots army, by the king's order, in 1646. A fatal measure! and soon followed by personal destruction, as well as political ruin. Amongst all the mistakes of this unhappy king's conduct, that of his relying on the Scots was the least pardonable.

The *Castle* of Newark, which was either founded or re-edified by the Bishop of Lincoln, in the twelfth century, affords, even in a state of ruin, a majestic ornament to this town. The area of the castle was of an oblong form, and the whole of the buildings were situated on a high bank by the side of the river Trent. The keep, or principal tower, still remains, and contains numerous rude but stately apartments, now in a state of utter neglect, or applied to sordid uses.

In the vicinity of the castle the river is crossed by a bridge, constructed of brick faced with stone, which was erected shortly after the year 1775.

The *Church* is usually deemed one of the finest parochial edifices in the kingdom. This noble building is in that florid style of architecture which prevailed in the fifteenth century, and is superbly ornamented in every part. Amongst more valuable sculptural decorations on the exterior, occur an infinite number of those grotesque devices in which English architects took a fantastical delight in ages immediately preceding the rejection of the pointed style. A light and elegant stone tower sustains a lofty spire of uncommon beauty, which forms a conspicuous object to the traveller in many distant tracts of country.

The Town-hall is a spacious and handsome structure, erected in 1805, at the expense of £17,000.

Cotton spinning, and several other branches of manufacture, are cultivated at Newark with considerable success. In the vicinity of the town are numerous vestiges of military works thrown up in the seventeenth century. The *Beacon Hill* is worthy of examination, from its connexion with the wars of that period. This was the scene of the action which occurred between Prince Rupert and the parliamentarian army under Sir John Meldrum. At the same place are to be seen some very extensive and curious quarries of *gypsum*.

Stoke by Newark is a rural and pleasing village, adorned with the eligible mansion of Sir R. Bromley, Bart. In this parish took place the battle

between Henry the Seventh and the army under the Earl of Lincoln and Lord Lovel, who had espoused the cause of the impostor, Lambert Simnel. The battle was fought in June, 1487, and ended in the complete discomfiture of the rebels, and the death of their leaders. A romantic tale has been told concerning the Lord Lovel, who, according to this legend, escaped from the field, and was secreted for some time at one of his family seats. The fallacy of this story is noticed in our account of Minster Lovel, Oxfordshire.

SOUTHWELL, now much reduced in size, was formerly a town of great consequence, and still derives an extraordinary degree of interest from its ancient and beautiful *Collegiate Church*, or Minster. This building was founded by Paulinus, Archbishop of York, about the year 627, and the collegiate institution was endowed with much wealth and power, through the favour of various succeeding archbishops.

The property appertaining to Southwell church was granted to an individual by Edward the Sixth; but was partly restored by Queen Mary. The religious members of the establishment now consist of sixteen prebendaries and six vicars choral, besides an organist, six singing men, and many inferior officers. The prebendal house is a handsome modern building, and is occupied by the prebendaries in rotation. The Archbishops of York had

formerly a palace at Southwell, in which they occasionally resided. This building, now in ruins, is situated on the south side of the Minster yard.

The Church is an august and curious structure, three hundred and six feet in length. It is of the cruciform description, and the transept, or cross aisle, measures one hundred and twenty-one feet from north to south. This extensive pile is chiefly in the circular style of architecture, and has been attributed by some writers to the Anglo-Saxons, but is allowed, by the best judges, to be the work of a Norman era. The pointed, or English mode of building has, however, been adopted in many alterations. The screen which separates the nave and choir is a splendid specimen of the architectural fashion which prevailed in the fourteenth century. The Chapter House is also a beautiful example of the pointed style. The exterior (like that of the Chapter House at York) is comparatively plain, but the internal arrangements are of a character truly magnificent. The examiner must, indeed, receive peculiar pleasure from the whole of this collegiate church and its dependant buildings. The *precincts* afford several curious vestiges of antiquity, amongst which must be noticed a circular Gateway [163], of which we present a view.

Southwell was the scene of some important transactions during the public troubles in the seven-

teenth century. At this place Charles the First performed the fatal act of surrendering himself to the Scotch commissioners. The King, when at Southwell, sometimes resided in the Archbishop's palace, but occasionally used the inn now known by the sign of the Saracen's Head. It is said that he dined at this inn on the day of his surrender to the Scotch, and an ancient room is still shewn as that in which he took his melancholy repast. Tradition adds, that the same apartment was used by Oliver Cromwell, when journeying towards the scene of his northern successes.

Worksop, a neat and pleasant market-town, situated on the northern border of Sherwood Forest, consists chiefly of one long street, in which are many respectable domestic buildings. This place has not attained any notoriety in general history. Little is known concerning the strong castle which formerly stood on the west side of the town; and the site of that structure is denoted merely by a circular hill, enclosed with a trench, except on one side, where a steep bank overhangs the river Ryton. Gilbert, the first Earl of Shrewsbury, well known for his exploits in the French wars of Henry the Fifth, formerly possessed the lordship of this town, and built in the neighbourhood a very extensive residence, which has unfortunately been destroyed by fire.

A monastery was founded at Worksop, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustine, in the reign of Henry the First; and became a religious house of considerable importance, through the aid of subsequent benefactions. The remains of the monastic buildings are few and trifling, with the exception of the western part of the church, which now constitutes the parochial place of worship. A gateway, formerly leading to the abbey, is however still preserved, and is a picturesque fragment of pointed architecture. The Abbey Church, although curtailed in dimensions, is an august and most impressive fabric. This building is surmounted with two lofty towers, and the west entrance is through an Anglo-Norman doorcase, of striking grandeur. The interior exhibits some noble remains of the circular style, blended with alterations in the light and graceful mode of a less ancient date. Many curious monuments are contained in this church and its attached place of sepulture.

In the vicinity of Worksop are several mansions, belonging to nobility of the first class.

Worksop Manor, the seat of the Duke of Norfolk, stands nearly in the centre of a fine and well-wooded park, eight miles in circumference. The ancient building on the site of this structure was accidentally destroyed by fire, in the year 1761. The present fabric was erected after a de-

sign of the architect Payne, and forms one side only of an intended quadrangle. The front is composed of freestone, and is three hundred and eighteen feet in length. In the central compartment is a portico, composing six columns of the Corinthian order; and the whole elevation is sumptuously decorated.

The principal apartments are of noble proportions, and contain numerous family portraits, which are interesting to every examiner who recollects the distinguished part borne by many of the HOWARDS in important transactions closely interwoven with our national history. There are, also, a few good pictures by the ancient masters.

We regret to state that the mansion of Worksop Manor is seldom visited by its noble proprietors, and the buildings and grounds have consequently experienced injurious neglect. The park anciently formed part of the Forest of Sherwood, and still contains some venerable trees which may have flourished in the time of the Plantagenets. A large portion of the imparked domain is now under the operation of the plough.

At a short distance from the above seat, towards the south, is WELBECK ABBEY, a residence of the Duke of Portland. An Abbey for Premonstratensian canons was founded on this spot by Thomas de Cutheney, in the reign of Stephen. After the dissolution of religious houses this estate came into

the possession of the Cavendish family. Of this line was that Duke of Newcastle who is well known for his attachment to equestrian exercises, but is more justly celebrated for his sufferings in a loyal adherence to the calamitous fortunes of Charles the First; his loss in the civil wars being stated at nearly one million sterling. The estate passed, by intermarriages among descendants, to the present ducal proprietor.

Few relics of the ancient abbey are contained in the present building, which, in its exterior features, displays the turrets, the balustrades, and minute architectural embellishments usual at the early part of the seventeenth century. Additions have been made in recent times, and the interior was re-organized under the direction of the late Duke. A good collection of pictures is dispersed throughout the principal apartments of this mansion.

The *Park*, like that previously noticed, constituted formerly a part of the extensive Forest of Sherwood. The wood-scenery in this domain possesses unspeakable grandeur; and many of the forest trees, when considered individually, are not only of exquisite pictorial beauty, but are worthy of the attention of the naturalist, on account of their great size and age. A single instance may be sufficient to shew the propriety of this assertion. That tree which is termed *The Greendale Oak* is supposed to be more than seven hundred years old.

In the seventeenth century it was 33 feet in circumference, at the bottom. The breadth of the boughs at the same time was 88 feet, covering a space equal to 676 square yards. The Greendale oak is now sinking in decay, but is succoured and sustained by various exertions of art. In the year 1724 a coach-road was cut through this venerable tree, the width in the middle being six feet three inches.

Although a subject of subordinate curiosity, it may be observed that the Riding-house and stables constructed in the seventeenth century by the equestrian Duke of Newcastle (author of the Treatise on Horsemanship) are still preserved, and are believed to constitute the finest in the kingdom, with the exception of those belonging to the Prince Regent, at Brighton.

Clumber Park, a seat of the Duke of Newcastle, is situated to the east of the mansions described above. This domain exhibits, in a striking point of view, the effects which affluence, guided by discretion, is capable of achieving in districts which appear to forbid the operations of art. Sixty years back the scene to which we now conduct the reader was chiefly a black and repulsive heath, over-run with rabbits, the only animals calculated to live upon so cheerless a soil, when in a state of nature. The plantations now cover a vast extent of ground; a small river, which crept in silent ob-

scurity through a marshy vale, is augmented to a lake of noble proportions; and a splendid mansion is formed on a spot which was once deemed undesirable, even by the sordid classes of society.

The park is about eleven miles in compass, and includes two ancient woods, from the most extensive of which (termed *Clumber Wood*) the modern domain derives its name. The House is a magnificent structure, displaying three fronts; and its internal arrangement has been said to embrace at once the dissonant qualities of grandeur and comfort in an equal, if not superior degree to any noble mansion in England. We leave unnoticed the superb furniture of the different apartments, and direct the reader's attention to the paintings which adorn this fine seat. The collection is unquestionably the most estimable in the county of Nottingham, and affords a greater diversity of pleasing pictures than we recollect to have seen, where the specimens were not more numerous.

Contiguous to the above domain is THORESBY PARK, formerly the seat of the Duke of Kingston, and now of his descendant, Earl Manvers. The mansion was erected in the latter part of the last century, and is a handsome and convenient, rather than a magnificent building.

MANSFIELD, situated on the western borders of Sherwood Forest, is a town of great antiquity, and was the occasional residence of the Mercian kings.

The attractions of the forest also led many Anglo-Norman sovereigns to visit this place; and the metrical legend of King Henry the Second and the *Miller of Mansfield* exhibits the rude state of the neighbouring country at that time, together with the merriment which sometimes occurred during the royal hunting excursions.

Several branches of manufacture, chiefly connected with the stocking trade, are cultivated in this town, greatly to the advantage of the inhabitants. The church is a commodious and eligible building, in the pointed style. In the vicinity of this town are many dwellings, formed by excavations in solid rock, resembling those already noticed at Nottingham.

Newstead Abbey [164], to the south of Mansfield, has been long the seat of the Byron family, and is now the residence of Major Wildman. The Priory of Newstead was founded by King Henry the Second, about the year 1170. At the time of the dissolution the property was granted to Sir John Byron, ancestor of the present Lord Byron, well known for a melancholy but rich vein of poetical genius. The west front of the abbey church, together with some less important parts of the building, still remain, and are stately and picturesque masses of ruin.

The spacious and highly interesting mansion of Newstead is built in an impressive modification of

the ancient English style in domestic architecture, and all around wears an air of romantic gloom and poetical solemnity.

A writer who visited this mansion when it was occupied by Lord Byron, thus describes the apartment in which his lordship indulged his love of literature at an early period of life:—"Our aged "*Ciceroni*, with great good will, expressed a desire "to shew his *Lordship's Study*, and with all the "respectful familiarity of an old domestic depen- "dant went into the apartment, to request his "lord's permission, which was readily and politely "granted. It was impossible to enter this sweet "little apartment without noticing some of the "very unusual ornaments for such a place; but "as the house itself is literally a mansion of the "dead (for the monkish cemetery was in the cloi- "sters) it may account for the noble owner's taste "in decorating it with the relics of the dead, in- "stead of the more *tasty ornaments of bow-pots* "*and flower-vases!* The other ornaments are "some good classic busts, bookcases with a select "collection, and a very curious antique crucifix."

OXFORDSHIRE.

The principal interest of this county arises from its University, which is greatly superior, in extent and magnificence of buildings, to the sister institution at Cambridge. In several parts of the county are mansions of conspicuous grandeur. These are not so numerous as in several other districts, but the Palace of Blenheim is nearly unrivalled in splendour and attraction.

Oxfordshire is bounded on the east by Buckinghamshire, and on the west by the county of Gloucester; on the south, south-west, and south-east, its limits unite with those of Berkshire; the river Charwell separates Oxford from Northamptonshire on the north-east; while the county of Warwick lies contiguous on the north-west. Its figure is very irregular, but the greatest length is about fifty miles, and the extreme breadth thirty-eight.

This county possesses, in its southern districts, an alternation of hill and valley productive of many pleasing displays of pictorial scenery. The Chiltern elevations, partly clothed with rich mantles of beech, and sometimes arable to a height supposed

unattainable by the midland husbandry of the early ages, abound in variety and grace of scene. If Oxfordshire, in its central division, lose in a great measure that inequality of surface so prolific of beauty, it can boast of its forest and woods, fraught with national benefit, and displaying at every rude turn a captivating, though circumscribed, grandeur of prospect. On the north, (and particularly on the western part of that district) stone fences supply the place of the thickset hedges, decorated with a profusion of wild flowers, which form the boundaries of other inclosures; and the eye is often fatigued by a rude and frigid monotony of scene. But the rivers which flow through the county are the chief sources of its beauty. These, gliding through almost every district, call forth luxuriant vegetation in a thousand smiling meadows, and regale the traveller with a continual and enchanting change of prospect, whether they stretch over fertile champaign, or break from woody insterstice.

Few manufactures are here cultivated; and the natural productions possess no peculiarity demanding notice. The principal river, and that which constitutes the aquatic boast of Oxfordshire, is the Thames. This majestic river is arbitrarily denominated the *Isis*, until it receives the tributary waters of the Thame, near Dorchester. Amongst

minor streams, the chief are the Charwell, the Evenlade, and the Windrush.

The City of Oxford [165] is seated on a gentle elevation, in the area of an amphitheatre of hills, and presents a grand and interesting spectacle from all the neighbouring heights. The chief approaches to this city are particularly good, and the High-street [166] presents a scene unusually attractive. This noble thoroughfare derives an indescribable interest from the curved direction in which it is formed. Owing to this circumstance, a fresh display of architectural grandeur takes place at almost every step. The street is well paved, and its sides are adorned by the colleges of *University*, *Queen's*, and *All Souls*.

It will be readily supposed that the learned have taken great pains to trace this "seat of the Muses" to a very remote origin. Their utmost labours, however, terminate in plausible conjecture; and judicious history takes its best foundation in the year 727, at which time a monastery was erected here by Didan, an Anglo-Saxon nobleman. Frideswide, the daughter of this pious nobleman, was first governess of the monastery.

The city speedily acquired importance as the seat of public schools; and throughout every age subsequent to the Norman conquest, has been progressively rising in national estimation. Oxford

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Oxford, from London Road.

167

Clarendon Press & Theatre.

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St Peter's in the East.

afforded an occasional residence to many of our kings, and consequently became the theatre of numerous memorable transactions of a public nature. Various councils and parliaments were held here at different times, and it may be truly said that no city, except the metropolis, is calculated to excite more forcibly that grateful interest which the student of history derives from inspecting the scene of august and remote events.

The period at which the UNIVERSITY was founded has not been correctly ascertained, but it is usually believed that Alfred the Great first established at this place certain schools for students in grammar, arts, and divinity. These wise and benevolent institutions of King Alfred suffered greatly from the incursions of the Danes, who three times destroyed Oxford by fire in the tenth and eleventh centuries. The learned establishments appear, however, to have revived with the city after each assault, and the University attained a flourishing aspect shortly after the advent of the Normans.

Previous to the reign of Henry the Third, the teachers and scholars lodged and studied in buildings which they rented of the citizens. In the time of this king, houses were erected by affluent patrons of literature, and bestowed on the votaries of learning. Unexpected advantages were derived from so laudable an example; for the custom of founding and endowing colleges progressively supplanted

the taste which had long prevailed for the foundation of monastic structures. Gradually enriched with buildings, endowed for the encouragement of learning, and well provided for the reception of students, the University of Oxford rose, in the sixteenth century, to a height of academical renown from which it has never permanently declined, although its career has been occasionally impeded by various commotions in the church and state.

The officers by which this University is immediately governed are denominated the Chancellor, the High-steward, the Vice-chancellor, and two Proctors. For the reception of the numerous students there are twenty Colleges and five Halls. Nearly the whole of these buildings are worthy of deliberate examination. So great, indeed, are their attractions, that we find it difficult to make a selection of objects entitled to the primary notice of the visitor.

CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE was founded by Cardinal Wolsey, in the year 1524. The buildings were commenced on the site of the ancient priory, founded by the Anglo-Saxon nobleman termed Didan, and now likewise comprehend the space formerly occupied by several Halls. The principal collegiate buildings of Christ Church consist of two spacious quadrangles and two smaller courts. The great west front conveys the ideas of amplitude, magnificence, and power. This part of the struc-

ture was begun by Wolsey, but completed by Sir Christopher Wren. The whole length is 382 feet.

The grand western quadrangle, which is characterized by mingled simplicity and grandeur, was erected under the direction of Cardinal Wolsey. A great part of the southern side is occupied by the *Hall.* This magnificent refectory is in the ancient English style, and is adorned with an extensive collection of portraits.

The second quadrangle is termed Peckwater Square, and is constructed in attention to the classic orders of architecture. The whole of this division of the college was erected in the early part of the eighteenth century. Its chief ornament consists in the *Library*, which is now divided into two compartments: the upper division contains the numerous and valuable books belonging to this society, and in the lower is placed an extensive collection of pictures, bequeathed to Christ Church by General Guise. These paintings were collected by General Guise, at an immense expense. Many are by the best masters, and will not fail to excite the admiration of the spectator.

The former church of the priory, on whose site this college is erected, now constitutes the Cathedral of Oxford, and will meet with attention in a succeeding page.

The structure known by the name of *New College* was founded in the year 1379, by William of

Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester; and presents one of the noblest specimens of ancient architecture contained in the University. The buildings consist of a spacious quadrangle, with attached chapel, hall, and library; a fine range of cloisters; and a series of apartments, for the use of students, termed the garden-court. The quadrangle is entered by a handsome portal, and has the chapel and hall on the north, and the library on the east.

The chapel is unquestionably the most splendid building of the kind in the University, and was originally designed in the purest taste of the fourteenth century. Considerable alterations have been recently effected, under the direction of the late Mr. Wyatt; and although great freedoms were taken by that architect with the ancient mode of arrangement, we are not inclined to deny that his innovations were productive of some beauty. The choir of this noble chapel is one hundred feet in length. The east end is worked into canopied niches, fifty in number, and each adorned with pinnacles and tracery of the richest description. This part of the interior was entirely renovated under the direction of Mr. Wyatt. Over the communion-table are five small compartments of marble sculpture, in alto-relievo, finely executed by Westmacott.

The painted windows are of unusual interest, as they enable the spectator to form a comparative

view of the merits which distinguish the ancient and modern styles of painting on glass. Few will hesitate in giving the preference to the latter. The great west window is, indeed, unrivalled for beauty of design, exquisite disposition of light and shade, and fascinating influence of general effect. This splendid work was begun about the year 1776, from finished cartoons by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and was executed by Jervais. The subject of the principal compartment is the nativity of Jesus. The colouring of this fine window is temperate though rich, and the whole approximates more closely to nature than any effort of glass-painting before the time of Jervais.

The College of ALL SOULS was founded in the year 1437, by Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury; and consists chiefly of two spacious courts. The style of architecture in the first quadrangle is solid, and the buildings are low, with an embattled parapet. The great, or interior quadrangle increases in beauty as well as in dimensions. The chapel and hall occupy the southern side, and on the north is placed the splendid library of the college. The *Hall* is a very elegant apartment, and contains several portraits, together with many interesting pieces of sculpture, and casts from the antique. The *Library* is one of the largest rooms of its kind in the kingdom, being 198 feet

in length. The first stone of this noble apartment was laid in the year 1716, by Dr. Young, the well-known author of the Night Thoughts. The expense of the building was defrayed by a bequest of Colonel Codrington.

MERTON COLLEGE is the most ancient incorporated establishment in this University, and was founded by Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester, in the reign of Henry the Third. The *Chapel* was erected in the early part of the fifteenth century, and is a beautiful specimen of pointed architecture.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE was founded by Robert Eglesfield, confessor to Queen Philippa, consort of Edward the Third; and that illustrious queen shortly became the avowed protectress of the institution. The honorary patronage has ever since been vested in the queens of England. The grand front is constructed on the north side of the High street. In the centre is a richly embellished gate of entrance, over which is a cupola, containing a statue of Queen Caroline. The interior of the principal court is among the finest collegiate examples of modern elegance. The first stone of this quadrangle was laid on the anniversary of Queen Anne's birth, February 6, 1710; but the whole was not completed till 1759. The building bears a considerable resemblance to the Luxembourg pa-

lace, in Paris. It is supposed that King Henry the Fifth was a student at this college, under the care of Cardinal Beaufort.

The foundation of St. John's College proceeded from the munificence of Sir Thomas White, an opulent citizen of London, who served the office of Lord Mayor in 1553, and was knighted by Queen Mary. The *second quadrangle* is the most superb part of the structure. This court (with the exception of the south side, in which is the library) was erected at the entire expense of Archbishop Laud, from a design of Inigo Jones. The whole display is rich and captivating; but, when deliberately examined, the building is not calculated to reflect unmixed credit on the memory of the architect. The classic and ancient English styles are mingled with a lamentable deficiency of judgment.

The range of structure which looks towards the gardens, and which forms a second front of the eastern division of this quadrangle, is the most interesting and unobjectionable. This consists of five bay windows of delicate workmanship, supported by brackets of sculptured stone. The gardens spread at the base of this fine elevation are very extensive, and the manner in which they are disposed is an honour to the recent period in which the arrangement took place.

The charter for founding Trinity College was obtained in the year 1554, by Sir Thomas Pope.

The generosity of the founder was limited only by his resources. His endowment of the new foundation consisted of thirty-five manors and thirteen advowsons, besides various impropriations and pensions.

The buildings consist of two courts, but are designed with little attention to architectural harmony of parts. The *Chapel* is entitled to careful notice, as it is one of the finest instances in Oxford of a striking effect produced by a classic simplicity of arrangement. This structure was erected between the years 1691 and 1694. It is believed that the design was furnished by Dean Aldrich, subject to corrections by Sir Christopher Wren.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, situated near the eastern extremity of the city, on the borders of the river Charwell, was founded by William of Waynfleet, Bishop of Winchester, about the year 1448. This establishment takes a high place amongst the noblest institutions of the University. The chief part of the extensive buildings was perfected during the life of the founder, and under his immediate inspection. The side towards the High-street is ornamented with a lofty tower, of beautiful proportions, which is said, by a popular but doubtful tradition, to have been constructed after the design of Cardinal Wolsey, whilst that distinguished person was bursar of this college.

The *great quadrangle* of Magdalen is conspicuous for an air of venerable grandeur, and is composed of the chapel, the hall, the library, a part of the president's lodgings, and chambers for the *fellows* and *demies*. A fine cloister runs to the extent of each side, the roof of which is of ribbed oak; and no innovating hand has presumed to violate the sedate though magnificent character of the surrounding buildings. The whole of this quadrangle was arranged by the founder, with the following exceptions: the cloister on the south was completed after his demise; and, in the year 1509, a series of large hieroglyphic figures of sculptured stone was added, at regular distances, on each interior part of the court.

These pieces of sculpture display the human figure in numerous attitudes, but chiefly of a grotesque character; together with various animals, and some extravagant creations of fancy, as the lamia, the griffin, and the dragon. It is usually believed that this assemblage of mystical representations is merely the offspring of such a fantastical taste as often led our ancient English sculptors to labour at communicating delight through the medium of astonishment. But one collegiate writer has endeavoured to prove that the whole were designed to inculcate salutary lessons of scholastic discipline.

The *Chapel* is an elegant structure, in the pointed style of building; but it is to be lamented that, in some late alterations, incongruous ornaments, of a Grecian character, have been profusely adopted. The windows are filled with painted glass, chiefly executed by Egginton.

Magdalen College is required by its statutes to entertain the kings of England and their eldest sons whenever they visit Oxford; but has not been honoured as the temporary residence of royalty since the reign of James the First.

Attached to this college are pleasure-grounds of the most inviting description. These have been arranged at different periods, and consequently evince great varieties in taste. Approximating to the new buildings is a division termed the Grove, which is a fine tract, well stored with venerable elms, and stocked with deer. The shady recesses and pleasing half-repose of this scene are well adapted to study and meditation. Round an adjacent meadow, on the banks of the river Charwell, are constructed long and devious promenades, termed the Water-walks. Through the umbrageous fence which ornaments these walks on either side are caught occasional views of the surrounding country, and the whole seems to speak of academical quiet and elegant ease.

The most important *Public Buildings* connected with the University are *the Schools, the Bodleian*

Library, the Theatre, the Clarendon Printing-house, the Radcliffe Library, the Ashmolean Museum, the Observatory, the Physic-garden, and *St. Mary's, or the University Church.*

The *Schools*, including a part of the Bodleian Library and the Picture Gallery, form a splendid quadrangle. The principal front is a magnificent elevation, 175 feet in length, with a lofty square tower over the entrance. The ranges of building on the interior of the quadrangle are three stories high. The whole would be a pleasing specimen of English architecture, if an absurd fashion which prevailed in the early part of the seventeenth century had not led the builder to place, on the interior face of that noble tower which surmounts the gate of entrance, couplets of columns, which reach, in due succession, from base to pinnacle, expressive of the five classic orders. In the Corinthian compartment is introduced a statue of James the First on his throne, holding *his book* towards the figure of Fame, who is represented in the act of sounding her trumpet.

In these public schools the professors read lectures in the several sciences. The Divinity School, which was completed in the year 1480, is one of the richest specimens of the florid style of English architecture to be witnessed in any part of the kingdom. The stone roof is of exquisite workmanship.

The *Bodleian*, or *Public Library*, comprises three extensive rooms, disposed in the form of the Roman H. This noble institution was founded by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, in the fifteenth century, but was restored, after several ages of alternate depredation and neglect, by Sir Thomas Bodley, in the year 1597. The contributions of valuable manuscripts and the best printed works have been truly splendid, and the library is now secondary in importance only to that of the British Museum.

In the *Picture Gallery* are placed numerous portraits, of various degrees of merit, comprising the representations of many distinguished members of this University.

In the Logic and Moral Philosophy School is preserved a collection of statues, marbles, and busts, comprising 135 articles, presented to the University by the Countess Dowager of Pomfret, in 1755; and, in an apartment on the north side of the schools, are ranged the *Arundelian Marbles*.

The *Theatre* [167] was one of the first works of Sir Christopher Wren, and was entirely built at the expense of Archbishop Sheldon. The foundation was laid in 1664, and the building completed in about five years. The ground-plan is that of the theatre of Marcellus at Rome; and the whole edifice is a beautiful specimen of classical purity in design, and excellence of execution.

The *Radcliffe Library* was founded by the eccentric, but skilful and benevolent physician, Dr. Radcliffe, who bequeathed the sum of £40,000 for its erection, and provided for the maintenance of a librarian. The rustic basement of this structure, which is 100 feet in diameter, is in the form of a double octagon; and from the basement proceeds a cylindrical superstructure, adorned with Corinthian columns, ranged in couplets. A cupola, sixty feet high, completes the elevation. The embellishments of the interior are of a superb character. The dome is wrought into compartments of beautiful stucco-work, and between the principal windows are tresses of flowers and fruit. This building was erected after designs by Gibbs, but is chiefly valuable as an architectural ornament of the University. The books are few, and of a limited interest.

The *Ashmolean Museum* derives its origin from Elias Ashmole, author of the History of the Garter. The building was erected by Sir Christopher Wren, at the expense of the University, and is well adapted to the use for which it was designed. In this edifice are reposited many natural and artificial curiosities, comprehending numerous subjects of antiquity. Here are, likewise, some truly valuable manuscripts.

The *Astronomical Observatory* is an elegant and appropriate building, erected in the latter part of

the eighteenth century. The *Physic Garden* is an acquisition for which the University is indebted to Henry, Earl of Danby, who procured a lease of the ground from Magdalen College, in 1622.

In noticing the most prominent objects not immediately connected with the University, our attention is first demanded to the *Cathedral Church*. Oxford was constituted a bishop's see by King Henry the Eighth. The church appertaining to the dissolved abbey of Oseney, contiguous to Oxford, was first chosen as the cathedral; but this distinction was afterwards conferred on the chapel of St. Frideswide's monastery, a building comprehended in Wolsey's collegiate establishment, now termed Christ Church.

This structure is curious and interesting in an architectural point of view, although it is greatly deficient in extent and magnificence, when compared with many other cathedral churches, which formed the favourite labour of the wealthy and pious through whole centuries of superstitious devotion. Its plan is cruciform, with a square tower proceeding from the centre, on which is placed a steeple, of weighty and inelegant proportions. The building was originally more extensive than at present, a part of the western end having been taken down by Cardinal Wolsey. The Anglo-Norman style of building chiefly prevails, with interspersed alterations in a later mode. The dor-

mitory, situated to the north of the choir, contains several very ancient monuments, deserving of attentive inspection. Amongst these is a large altar-tomb (erroneously said to be that of the holy Frideswide), surmounted with a shrine, which was undoubtedly erected to the honour of that saint. This curious relic is a lofty fabric composed of wood, and is richly adorned with tabernacle-work.

The *Church of St. Mary*, situated on the north side of the High-street, is a fine and attractive structure, erected in the latter part of the fifteenth century. The tower is square, with two graduated buttresses at each angle, on every face of which is a statue in a canopied niche. From behind these spring pinnacles, finely proportioned and richly ornamented. A taper spire surmounts the whole; the entire elevation being 180 feet. In this church the chief members of the University attend divine service, except on some particular days, when the sermons are appointed to be preached at St. Peter's in the east, or in certain colleges.

The city of Oxford, with its suburbs, consists of fourteen parishes; but only two of the parochial churches, after that mentioned above, demand notice, in regard to architectural character.

The church of *All Saints* was erected early in the eighteenth century, under the direction of Dean

Aldrick, and is a building of considerable elegance, in the Grecian style.

St. Peter's in the East [168] is celebrated amongst antiquaries, as one of the few remaining buildings which afford probable vestiges of Anglo-Saxon architecture. This structure is of moderate proportions, and has been chiefly renovated in various ages. The eastern part of the superstructure is the most ancient, and presents some curious instances of the circular style. But the *Crypt*, constructed beneath the chancel, is the most interesting portion of the fabric. It appears that the church of St. Peter was founded by Grimbald, in the time of Alfred the Great; and some writers believe that the existing crypt is part of the edifice formed by that venerable person. This subterraneous apartment is in the rudest style of circular architecture. The pillars are short and massive, and their capitals are worked into numerous dissimilar and fantastic representations.

The buildings for municipal and other uses connected with the city are of a very eligible character. Amongst charitable institutions, the *Radcliffe Infirmary* is pre-eminent. This useful establishment was founded at the expense of the trustees acting under the will of Dr. Radcliffe; in whose hands a considerable residue remained, after the fulfilment of such benevolent intentions as were specifically named by the testator.

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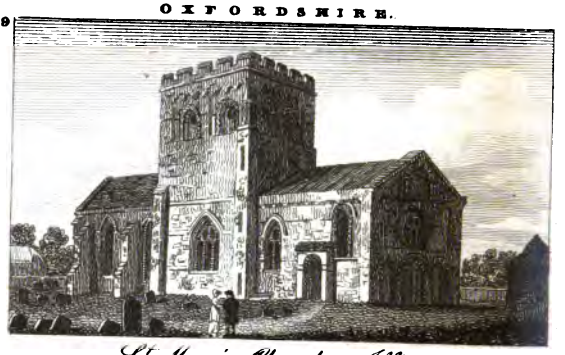

St. Mary's Church, Iffley.

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Nuncham Courtney.

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Henley on Thames.

A castle was built at Oxford by Robert de Oilgi, the Norman baron on whom the lordship of this town was bestowed by King William the First. On the site of that once formidable structure, the town and county gaol is now erected. This melancholy pile is conspicuous for excellence of design and arrangement. Some few remains of the castle are still to be seen in the precincts of the modern extensive building.

The city was formerly encompassed with high and massy walls. Ruinous vestiges of these lines of fortification are observable in several places, but the most important are in the vicinity of Merton and New Colleges.

Iffley, or Yffley, [169] a small village on the border of the river Isis, at the distance of about two miles from Oxford, demands the attention of the traveller and topographical writer, on account of its very ancient and curious church. This structure consists of one aisle and a chancel, having a tower of low proportions nearly in the centre. With the exception of some pointed windows, evidently not comprehended in the original design, the whole edifice is in a very early style of circular architecture, and is supposed by many examiners to have been erected previously to the Norman conquest. The west end is enriched with a round-headed doorcase, of elaborate workmanship, which is now disused. On the north and south sides are

doors of the same character, but less richly ornamented. The interior evinces a rude and cold, but commanding magnificence. The ancient pulpit was of stone, but is now removed, to give place to a wooden fabric, of incongruous character. The front is composed of black marble, and is supposed to be coeval with the church.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY, [170] the seat of the Earl of Harcourt, occupies a beautiful spot near the eastern border of the Isis, at the distance of five miles and a half from Oxford. The park contains near 1200 acres, and evinces, in every division, great richness of natural circumstance, improved by the hand of reverential, rather than of presumptuous art. Perhaps the talent of Brown, who assisted in the arrangement of the grounds, was never displayed to greater advantage. A drive is formed, which conducts to the chief objects of interest in the park, and continues through a wood that falls with a steep descent to the river Isis, the bank of which is here very abruptly and finely broken by steep and bold projections.

The mansion is characterized by a graceful simplicity of architecture; and the interior, although richly furnished, is intended to rely for attraction upon the numerous works of art here assembled. The very extensive collection of pictures comprises many select works of the ancient masters, and a great number of portraits, interesting to the

general observer, from the celebrity and public worth of the persons represented. The library is a handsome apartment, and is embellished with the following portraits of literary men who were the associates of former lords of this domain:—Pope, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; Prior, a fine head by Dahl; Whitehead, poet laureat, by Wilson; and Mason, by Doughty.

The *Gardens* contain thirty-eight acres, and were laid out (with an exception of the flower-garden) by Brown. These grounds are arranged with exemplary accuracy of judgment. A walk is constructed through the most interesting parts, and some few artificial embellishments are introduced, amongst which must be noticed an urn, dedicated to the memory of the poet Whitehead, with an inscription from the pen of Mason.

The *Church* of Nuneham Courtenay forms a pleasing ornament to the pleasure-grounds. This building is in the Grecian style of architecture, and was erected in 1764, after a design of Simon, Earl of Harcourt, slightly corrected by Stuart.

The *Flower Garden* contains about an acre and a quarter, and was arranged after a design by Mason, who was the intimate friend of the late Earl of Harcourt, and is well known to the public as author of a poem on the principles of landscape gardening, and other valuable compositions. It has been remarked, that "this garden must ever

be considered interesting, as a proof of the facility with which the accomplished Mason could reduce to practice those theoretic principles which he laid down in his excellent poem. It will be observed, that the ornaments are numerous; but they are so placed as to be seen in unexpected succession. Every embellishment partakes of sentiment, and of sentiment so refined, that the most scrupulous taste can scarcely allow any circumstance to be superfluous."

Henley on Thames [171] is a clean and chearful town, situated near the base of a cluster of hills, in one of the most agreeable windings of that river which forms the chief natural ornament of Oxfordshire. No staple manufacture is cultivated in this town, and the trading inhabitants are principally engaged in *malting*, for the supply of London, and in such commercial interchanges with adjacent villages as are common to every provincial town. The beauty of the surrounding scenery has induced many private families to construct ornamental dwellings in this part of the county; and the prosperity of the town is evinced by the improvements progressively taking place in the habitations of traders of every rank.

Henley is entered from the London road over a handsome bridge of five arches, built of Headington stone, and finished in 1786. The key-stone on each face of the centre arch is adorned with a

sculptured mask, from the elegant chissel of the Hon. Mrs. Damer, who resided for some time in the neighbouring seat termed Park-place.

It may not be entirely uninteresting to observe, that on the pane of a window in the Red Lion Inn at Henley, Shenstone inscribed with his diamond ring that pleasing little poem which commences with this verse :—

> " To thee, fair Freedom, I retire,
> " From flatt'ry, cards, and dice and din ;
> " Nor art thou found in mansions higher
> " Than the low cot, or humble inn."

The church is a handsome and spacious, although irregular structure, in the pointed style. The lofty tower, composed of intermingled flint and stone, is traditionally said to have been built under the patronage of Cardinal Wolsey ; but there are not any documents in support of such an assertion.

The Town-Hall stands on an elevated spot in the High-street, and is a neat building, completed in 1790. Beneath the hall is a commodious piazza, used as a market-place.

The most distinguished natives of this place are *John Longland*, Bishop of Lincoln, who was confessor to Henry the Eighth, and *William Lenthal*, Speaker of the House of Commons during a great part of the troubles between Charles the First and the Parliament.

The village of CHALGROVE, distant about four miles from Watlington, attained considerable celebrity in the seventeenth century, on account of a battle which proved fatal to the bold and popular HAMPDEN. This action took place on Sunday the 18th of June, 1643, and was fought on a district termed *Chalgrove Field*, on the north-east of the village. The royal force was commanded by Prince Rupert, and had issued from Oxford on the preceding evening, probably with an intent of surprising and capturing some of the parliamentary officers, who were quartered in *Thame* and the neighbouring places. On the alarm being communicated, Hampden was amongst the first of those who commenced a tumultuous pursuit of the cavaliers. Rashly entering upon action without any consistent plan of attack, his ill-formed troops were compelled to retreat; and, early in the contest, himself was struck on the shoulder with a brace of bullets, which broke the bone. He quickly retired from the field, and died at Thame, after acute sufferings protracted for the term of three weeks.

Hampden is a favourite character with several historians, and in some respects he is deserving of the encomiums with which he has been honoured. The rectitude of his principles has not been questioned, and his personal courage was sufficiently proved on this disastrous field. As an alloy of his good sense and amiable character, it must be ob-

served, that he condescended to assume all the gloom and irrational jargon of puritanism. Much is said concerning his superiority of talent; but his reputation for ability chiefly depends on the assertion of Lord Clarendon, whose opinion on such a question must, however, be received as decisive. Mere courage was the only military good quality which he exhibited. His impetuosity at the fatal battle of Chalgrove is, assuredly, injurious to his memory as a soldier of high station, whose first duty was to direct rather than to act.

The town of WOODSTOCK is distant from Oxford about eight miles. The public buildings, if not of a superior, are still of a respectable character. The *Church* is a commodious structure, erected at different times, but without any prominent violation of architectural regularity; and the whole of the edifice is preserved in an exemplary state of care and neatness. Woodstock constitutes a chapelry to the contiguous parish of Bladen, and the ecclesiastical duties have been long performed by the erudite and worthy Dr. Mavor, whose writings are not more voluminous than useful, and are well known to the public.

The *Town Hall* is a handsome stone building, erected about the year 1766, after a design of Sir W. Chambers. The manufactures of polished steel and leather gloves are cultivated with considerable advantage by the inhabitants.

The principal interest of this neighbourhood arises from the neighbouring PALACE OF BLENHEIM, [172] and the historical circumstances connected with the domain now attached to that noble building.

The vicinity of Woodstock was honoured by the residence of royalty at a very early period, and the park at this place is said to be the first that was formed in England. Leaving to antiquarians the discussion of that question, we proceed to remind the reader that King Henry the Second resided frequently at the royal palace in Woodstock Park, and here passed many hours of illicit gaiety with *Rosamond*, the fair and unfortunate daughter of Walter, Lord Clifford, whose birth-place we have noticed in our account of Herefordshire. The romantic tale of his constructing a *bower* for her secretion, which recess was penetrated by the "enraged queen," through the means of a silken clue, is sufficiently disproved by judicious historians. We shall shortly notice the natural, but melancholy, close of Rosamond de Clifford's life, while directing the reader to her place of sepulture, in Godstow Nunnery.

Succeeding kings sought a more honourable gratification in the retirement of Woodstock. A parliament was held here by Edward the First; and in the ancient palace was born Edward the Black Prince, the renowned son of our third King Ed-

ward. Richard the Second was frequently here; and in his reign Woodstock was honoured with the residence of the poet CHAUCER, who took delight in straying through the lovely recesses of the park, and formed the scenery of some of his poems from the natural beauties there presented.

The palace (or manor-house, as it was formerly termed) afterwards formed one of the numerous places in which the Princess Elizabeth was confined, through the jealous caution of her sister, Queen Mary. During the civil wars of the seventeenth century, this distinguished manor-house was greatly injured by assault, and was shortly after entirely taken down.

The domain, which had so long appertained to the crown, and had so frequently been visited by its regal possessors, was bestowed, in the reign of Queen Anne, upon John Duke of Marlborough, in consideration of the great services rendered to the state by that illustrious warrior. At the same time the sum of half a million sterling was voted by parliament, for the purpose of erecting a palace for the duke and his descendants. The name of Woodstock Park was now discarded, and this extensive palatial territory has ever since been recognised by the appellation of BLENHEIM; a title conferred on the estate in commemoration of the important victory obtained by the Duke of Marlborough, on the second of August, 1704.

The palace of Blenheim occupies a site sufficiently elevated to display the fabric to great effect, without detracting from its comparative magnitude. The northern, or grand front of the structure, is 348 feet in extent, and is of a very superb character. The central compartment, to which the attention is chiefly directed by the architect, is of the Corinthian order; and the whole façade conveys ideas of power and splendour, although the component parts are liable to many objections. The south front is a chaste and fine elevation. Over a portico of the Corinthian order there is placed a colossal bust of Louis the Fourteenth of France, taken from the gate of Tournay.

Few buildings have experienced more severity of sarcasm than the palace of Blenheim. Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of this edifice, was himself a poet, and therefore possessed numerous enemies amongst the wits. Those sharply-pointed lines,

> "Lie heavy on him, Earth! for He
> "Laid many a heavy load on Thee,"

have proved more injurious to his reputation as an architect, than all the animadversions of prosaic writers. If coldly examined, as an architectural drawing, the design of Blenheim appears liable to much criticism; but, when we view the building, and duly attend to the history of its erection, we shall scarcely refrain from agreeing with Dr. Mavor,

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Blenheim.

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Blandford House.

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Burley House.

that "Vanbrugh deserves very considerable applause for his judgment in a circumstance which has principally exposed him to the censure of pretended critics; he has rendered this structure characteristic, and expressive of its destination. Its massive grandeur, its spacious portals, and its lofty towers, recal the ideas of defence and security; with these we naturally associate the hero for whom it was erected, and thus find it emblematic of his talents and pursuits."

The interior of this noble pile is calculated to realise every anticipation of grandeur created by a view of its more prominent features. The state rooms are of magnificent proportions, and are in general arranged in a fine and correct taste. The collection of paintings is extremely numerous, and contains many select works of the best masters. Some fine pieces of antique sculpture likewise assist in the enrichment of several apartments. The *Library* occupies the whole length of the west front, and contains a costly selection of rare books, comprising the grand Sunderland collection. Sculpture and painting unite with literature in bestowing charms on this superb room. At the upper end is placed, with grateful propriety, a statue of Queen Anne, "under whose auspices John, Duke of Marlborough conquered, and to whose munificence he and his posterity owe the possession of Blenheim." At the opposite termination of the gallery

is a bust of Alexander the Great, dug from the ruins of Herculaneum. Amongst the pictures which adorn the library, are portraits of John Duke of Marlborough, and Sarah his Duchess. The tapestry interspersed in different apartments is an object of some curiosity, and contains representations of the principal battles in which the Duke was engaged.

The princely district enclosed by walls, as a demesne-appendage to the palace, comprises about 2,700 acres, and abounds in picturesque beauties. The *Gardens*, situated in that division of the domain which is termed the Little Park, contain about 200 acres, and are arranged with a magnificence of design, and correctness of taste, consonant in spirit to the palace which they are intended to adorn. The artificial ornaments are few, and calculated to impart desirable relief and animation. The whole may, indeed, be described as a fine combination of landscape-scenery, where the softest effects of nature are exhibited with little apparent interference of art.

Amongst the principal objects in the park, unconnected with natural scenery, must be noticed a *Column*, 130 feet in height, crowned by a colossal statue of John Duke of Marlborough, and inscribed with an elegant review of his character and exploits, said to be written by Lord Bolingbroke.

In the parish of STONESFIELD, contiguous to Blenheim Park, was discovered, in the year 1711, a Roman tesselated pavement, adorned with rude but curious figures; and the traces of other apartments were found at a subsequent period. These interesting relics of antiquity are now destroyed. A more important discovery occurred in the adjacent parish of NORTH LEIGH, in 1813, at which time was revealed the groundwork of an extensive Roman Villa. A building has been erected for the protection of these latter vestiges, much to the gratification of the antiquarian public.

DITCHLEY, the seat of Lord Viscount Dillon, is distant about five miles from the town of Woodstock. This mansion was erected under the direction of the architect Gibbs, and has been considered the best of his performances. The exterior, however, is entitled to little approbation. The body of the structure is weighty, with many vases, and two statues on the coping. Thus, the architect has endeavoured to relieve the gloomy solidity of his design, by ornaments evidently superfluous and ill-placed.

By an unexpected contrast of arrangement, we find the interior of the mansion to abound in decoration. Every principal apartment is adorned with carving and gilding of the most expensive description. We cannot avoid believing, that if less gold-leaf had been employed, the general effect would

have been more grateful; but it must be observed, that there is an air of vivacity, warmth, and comfort, prevailing throughout the chief rooms, unusual in structures so splendid.

In this mansion is preserved a truly valuable and interesting collection of portraits. One of these is so curious, on account of an attached anecdote, that it usually attracts the notice of the visitor. The painting represents "Sir Henry Lee," proprietor of an ancient mansion which stood on the site of the present building, and "the dog which saved his life." The story connected with this picture is related in the following terms:—"A servant had formed a design to rob the house, and to murder his master. But, on the night this project was intended to be put in execution, the dog, though no favourite, nor indeed ever before taken notice of by his master, accompanied him up stairs, crept under the bed, and could not be driven away by the attendant, when at length Sir Henry ordered him to be left; and in the dead of the night, the treacherous servant, entering the room to execute his design, was instantly seized by the dog, and, on being secured, confessed his intention."

Heythorp, the seat of the Earl of Shrewsbury, is distant about four miles from the town of Chipping Norton. The mansion is approached by a noble avenue of trees, more than a mile in length;

and is a splendid building, erected after a design by Archer. The grand, or north front, has a central portico of entrance, adorned by four lofty Corinthian columns; and the whole exterior is richly embellished. The principal rooms are fitted up with great elegance. But this seat has been for some time neglected by the noble family to which it belongs, and the interior contains few other works of art than tapestry and stucco ornaments. These, however, rank amongst the best of their respective kinds.

On the banks of the river Isis, at the distance of two miles from Oxford, are the ruins of GODSTOW NUNNERY. This religious house was founded in the reign of Henry the First, and has acquired some distinction with those who take an interest in the romantic parts of ancient legend, from its connexion with the ill-fated *Rosamond de Clifford*. The "fair Rosamond" was placed as a boarder in this nunnery, but was, at a youthful and unsuspicious period of life, decoyed from the shelter of its walls by King Henry the Second. In our account of the regal domain of Woodstock, we have already alluded to the guilty days which succeeded. The woful sequel of her story may be told in few words. The assertion of her being poisoned by Queen Eleanor is proved to be of recent fabrication; deep regret was probably the secret canker which stretched her upon an early bier.

The grief-worn remains of this celebrated beauty were interred, by her parents, before the high-altar at Godstow; but were contumeliously ejected from that consecrated spot by order of the Bishop of Lincoln, in the year 1191. Her mouldering body, which might have been thought to have paid a last earthly atonement for pollution, was afterwards buried in the Chapter-House.

The ruins of the Nunnery are not extensive, and partake little of the picturesque. Their chief interest arises from the associated recollections which crowd on the spectator's mind, and people the dreary spot with romantic actors in the pageant of remote days.

The town of WITNEY wears a cleanly and agreeable aspect, and consists chiefly of two streets, the principal of which is nearly one mile in length. As the High-street draws towards the south, it progressively expands; and, in the broad area, is preserved an extent of greensward, through which is formed a wide and handsome gravel walk, leading to the church. The church occupies the complete termination of the street, and forms a fine architectural finish to the general view.

Witney has long been celebrated for the manufacture of blankets; and, although the trade is now divided with many other places, the manufactories in this town are computed to employ not less than 1000 persons, comprising men, women, and chil-

dren. The Staple, or Blanket Hall, is a commodious and ornamental structure.

The Church is a spacious and handsome building, of the cruciform description. The north entrance is by a descent of several steps, through a round-headed doorway; but the pointed style prevails throughout the chief parts of the edifice. The interior contains several curious monuments.

Minster Lovel, distant about three miles from Witney, obtained the second part of its appellation from the noble family of Lovel, who possessed a castellated mansion in this parish, some traces of which still remain. The ruins chiefly consist of the walls of the great hall, and parts of two of the towers.

Francis Lord Lovel, the last of his family who possessed this estate, was one of the chief confederates at the battle of Stoke, near Newark, in Nottinghamshire, where some desperate adherents to the house of York opposed the government of Henry the Seventh. It is generally believed that this lord was slain during the tumultuary pursuit which took place upon the defeat of his party; but some modern writers have asserted, on the credit of a traditional rumour, that he escaped from the field of Newark, and was secreted in his mansion at Minster Lovel, where he was starved to death by the treachery, or neglect, of the servant in whom he confided. They add, "that this

report seems to be confirmed in a very particular manner; for the house of Minster Lovel, in Oxfordshire, which belonged to this lord, being, not many years ago, pulled down, in a vault was found the body of a man, in very rich cloathing, seated in a chair, with a table and a mass-book before him. The body was entire when the workmen entered, but, upon admission of the air, soon fell to dust."

We are enabled to state that the above anecdote is entirely void of foundation. The castle of the Lovels was not taken down till about the year 1747; and there are persons still living in the parish who recollect the destruction of the edifice, and are convinced that no such discovery took place.

The *Priory* of Minster Lovel belonged to the Alien Monastery of Ivery, in Normandy; and was dissolved by King Henry the Fifth.

The town of BANBURY is situated in the northern part of the county, on the borders of the river Charwell, which here separates the counties of Oxford and Northampton. The Romans had a station on the site of this town; and Roman coins and other antiquities have been discovered in the neighbourhood. A castle, of which scarcely any vestige now exists, was erected here by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, in the twelfth century. History relates little of importance concerning this structure, until the civil wars of the seventeenth

century, when it was garrisoned for the king, and underwent two sieges. The last occurred in 1646, and the fortress was then surrendered, after a brave resistance, ten weeks in duration.

Banbury possesses many respectable domestic buildings, but the streets are not paved, and the inhabitants appear to possess little inclination towards those improvements, combining convenience and elegance, which are now so common in towns of similar importance. No staple manufacture is here cultivated, but valuable commercial advantages are derived from the Coventry and Oxford Canal, on which one public and two private wharfs are constructed.

A new parochial church has been recently built, on the site of a venerable and extensive edifice, erected by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln. The modern fabric is entirely destitute of exterior ornament, and, although £16,000 have been expended, is not yet complete. The part used for divine service is finished, and is in dimensions a square of about ninety feet. The Town Hall is a mean building, composed of brick.

In the vicinity of the above town is WROXTON, the seat of the Earl of Guildford. This mansion is erected on the site of a Priory, founded in the reign of Henry the Third. In the principal apartments are preserved some curious portraits of the families of Pope and North. Of the latter there is a com-

plete series of the Lords North, from Edward, the first lord, created in the reign of Philip and Mary, to the present Earl of Guildford.

Blandford House, [173] near Charlbury, is a large and commodious mansion, placed nearly in the centre of an extensive park. This estate was formerly termed *Cornbury*, and was in the possession of Edward Earl of Clarendon, who took his title of Viscount from this place. The property was purchased, some years back, by the late Duke of Marlborough, and is now the occasional residence of the Duke of Beaufort.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

THIS is the smallest county in England, its extreme length not exceeding eighteen miles, and its greatest breadth being about fifteen. Its area is believed to comprise two hundred square statute miles. Rutlandshire is bounded throughout the whole of its western limits by the county of Leicester. On the north-east it unites with Lincolnshire, and on the south-east with the county of Northampton.

The surface is, in many parts, agreeably varied with hills of a gentle rise and narrow intersecting valleys. But the most attractive scenery possesses no other charm than a rural softness of character; and both hill and vale are calculated to please the agriculturalist, rather than the admirer of the picturesque. The soil is in general extremely rich, and produces large crops of excellent corn. There are no manufactures of any importance cultivated in the county of Rutland; a circumstance that is attributed to the want of water and scarcity of fuel.

In this rural district there are few seats of nobility or gentry. It has been observed "that, with

" the exception of the great landholders and " clergy, there is, perhaps, a more absolute equa- " lity in Rutland than in any other county; that " is, there are none very rich and none wretchedly " poor, as is generally the case in manufacturing " districts."

This county is well watered for agricultural purposes, but chiefly by means of springs and ponds. The only rivers of any note are the Guash (locally termed *the Wash*), and the Welland.

OAKHAM, the principal town in Rutlandshire, is of small extent, and wears a rural aspect unusual with the capital of an English county. A castle was constructed at this place in the reign of Henry the Second, by Walcheline de Ferrars, Baron of Oakham. The history of this structure is entirely confined to the fortunes of its different noble possessors. The present remains of the building consist of parts of the outer walls, and a fabric termed the hall, which was erected as an additional apartment of state and hospitality, unconnected with the keep. This hall is now used for the public business of the county, and displays some relics of Anglo-Norman architecture, blended with alterations effected at various periods.

As an incidental circumstance, of some little curiosity, it must be remarked that many *Horse-shoes* are fixed to the outside of the castle-yard gate, and others are placed on the interior of the

hall, or court of justice. They vary in size, some measuring several feet across, and many are gilt. In explanation of the motive which led to the adoption of these unusual ornaments, it may be desirable to mention that the Lords de Ferrars, the ancient possessors of the manor of Oakham, bore horse-shoes in their armorial device, in allusion to the dignity of their ancestors, who were masters of the horse to the Dukes of Normandy. In the original grant of this manor to the De Ferrars family, those lords were entitled to demand from every baron, on his first passing through this lordship, a shoe from one of his horses, to be nailed on the castle-gate. The custom is still preserved, but has long been compounded in money, as a gratuity to the bailiff, who takes care to be provided with shoes of different sizes in proportion to the liberality of the donor.

The parochial Church is a handsome and well-preserved structure, in the pointed style of architecture. In the churchyard is a useful free-school, built and endowed in the reign of Charles the First. The county gaol is a modern building, composed of brick and stone. We find great pleasure in stating that this structure has, in general, very few inmates, a proof of the moral superiority of an agricultural district over those in which manufactures are extensively cultivated.

BURLEY ON THE HILL [174], the splendid seat of the Earl of Winchelsea, is the most attractive of the few mansions contained in this county. This estate was purchased in the reign of James the First by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who greatly improved the ancient mansion, and had the honour of entertaining his royal master within its walls. During this regal festivity Ben Jonson's masque of "The Gypsies" was first performed, before the King and Prince Charles. The house was destroyed by fire in the civil wars of the seventeenth century, and lay in ruins until the manor was purchased by Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham. The descendants of this nobleman (afterwards succeeding to the more ancient title of Winchelsea) have since made Burley their principal residence.

The mansion of Burley was rebuilt by Daniel, Earl of Nottingham, and is a spacious fabric, of the Doric order. The house is encompassed by a fine and well-wooded park, comprising more than one thousand acres. This elegant seat has lately been renovated at a considerable expense, and is enriched by an interesting assemblage of portraits, together with a judicious selection of pictures by the ancient masters. The church of Burley is a neat and appropriate structure, immediately contiguous to the west end of the mansion.

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Market Overton Church.

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Empingham.

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Tynwell Church.

The sequestered and agreeable village of MARKET OVERTON [175] contains several domestic buildings of considerable antiquity, which bestow an air at once venerable and picturesque on its peaceful street. The *Parochial Church*, of which we present a view, is a commodious and respectable structure, appearing to have been chiefly erected in the early part of the fourteenth century.

EXTON, a small village, embosomed in trees, demands notice on account of its *Church*, which is esteemed one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in the county. This structure is in the pointed style, and is surmounted by a tower and spire, of beautiful proportions. The interior contains some curious monuments to different members of the Harrington and Noel families, who possessed this lordship through many ages. Pendant from the arches are numerous banners of those two noble houses, accompanied by tabards, pennons and helmets. It has been remarked "that the regular "disposal of these renders them a kind of armorial "history of the two families; whilst the monu-"mental ornaments, and the silent gloom around, "carry back the imagination of the tourist to the "distant and romantic ages of chivalry."

Immediately contiguous to the above village is EXTON HALL, a spacious mansion in the style which prevailed in the latter part of the sixteenth

century. The park is extensive, and the gardens afford a curious example of the ancient mode of arrangement.

EMPINGHAM [176], situated in the eastern part of the county, is said to have been formerly a town of considerable extent, but is now nearly reduced to the character of a village. The church is an ancient edifice, entitled to the careful notice of the traveller. This structure is of the cruciform plan, and presents on the interior many vestiges of Anglo-Norman architecture.

The Church of TICKENCOTE afforded, until lately, one of the most impressive vestiges of ancient architecture to be witnessed in any of the midland counties of England. This building having sunk to a state of great dilapidation and decay, was re-edified in the year 1792. The arch which separated the nave and chancel has been preserved, and is supposed by some antiquaries to have been erected previous to the conquest. Some parts of the ancient chancel are also still remaining.

TINWELL [177] is a large but straggling village, seated on the north bank of the river Welland. Many of the houses wear that air of unostentatious comfort which forms the most estimable feature in rural buildings. The manor-house appears to have been erected in the sixteenth century, and is now converted into the dwelling of a farmer. The

church is a spacious structure in the pointed style. The arms of the Cecil family occur on several parts of the interior.

The town of UPPINGHAM is well paved, and contains many eligible domestic buildings. This place is not noticed in the record termed Domesday, and has, throughout every age, pursued the "noiseless tenour of its way" free from historical remark. The church is a neat and commodious structure, and contains several handsome monuments.

NORMANTON HOUSE, the seat of Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart. is a modern edifice of stone, comprising a central elevation of much elegance and two wings. The interior is richly furnished, and is well adapted to the polished intercourse of the present age. The surrounding park consists of about four hundred acres, and is finely adorned with wood of a venerable growth, but is otherwise of a flat and uninteresting character. The excellent pasturage of this neighbourhood is celebrated by Dyer, author of "The Fleece," in the following lines:—

"——— the clover'd lawns
"And sunny mounts of beauteous NORMANTON,
"Health's cheerful haunt, and the selected walk
"Of Heathcote's leisure."

SHROPSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Denbighshire, by a detached part of Flintshire, and by Cheshire. The Welsh counties of Montgomery and Radnor unite with its western borders. Herefordshire and Worcestershire lie towards the south; and Staffordshire is contiguous to its whole line of extent upon the eastern side. Its greatest length is about forty-six miles, and its extreme breadth thirty-seven.

This district abounds in objects of topographical interest. In regard to pictorial scenery, it presents a fine variety of surface. The western parts, which are contiguous to Wales, partake of the mountainous boldness of that romantic country. In the midland and eastern districts the scenery is of a more equable character, but often affords pleasing points of prospect.

Shropshire has been distinguished as the theatre of important events at nearly every era of our national history; and it presents relics of antiquity, illustrative of the spirit which prevailed at each of those marked periods. The operations of the Ro-

mans are denoted by remains of several roads and stations. That lofty rampart and deep attendant dyke, constructed by King Offa as a line of separation between Mercia and Wales, crosses the western part of this county, and commemorates the troubled state of the country in the time of the Anglo-Saxons. On the same contentious borders are remains of numerous castles, constructed by the Norman conquerors of Britain. Many fine examples of ecclesiastical architecture evince the zeal with which the affluent employed the intervals of intestine warfare, in services of a sincere but superstitious piety.

The mineralogical productions of Shropshire are extremely valuable. These chiefly consist of iron, lead, limestone, freestone, and coals. The first-named is the most important article of natural produce. Coalbrook Dale, situated in the eastern part of this county, forms the centre of the most extensive iron-works in the kingdom.

Amongst manufactures must be noticed, as pre-eminent in consequence, those of porcelain, and queen's, or Wedgewood's ware.

The principal river is the Severn, which affords a navigable communication between this county, North Wales, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and several contiguous districts. There are also various inferior streams, the chief of which are the Camlet, the Vyrnwey, the Tern, the Clun, the

Ony, and the Teme. Shropshire is adorned with several lakes, which, although not extensive, afford a variety of scenery unusual in the midland counties. One of the most spacious of these lovely sheets of ornamental water adjoins the town of Ellesmere, and covers about one hundred and sixteen acres.

The town of SHREWSBURY [178] is situated nearly in the centre of this county, of which it constitutes the capital. Its site comprises two gentle eminences, formed into a fine peninsula by the devious course of the river Severn. When viewed from a distance, the town presents, at nearly every point of approach, an imposing and attractive object. The stately spires of two venerable churches, and the august towers of the castle, impart an air of grandeur to the mass of elevated buildings, which is found to be deceptive on a close investigation. Independent of its public structures this town, indeed, is quite devoid of architectural beauty. The streets are in general narrow and ill-disposed, and the domestic buildings frequently of an ineligible character. In alleviation of the severity of this remark, it must, however, be stated that in many of the old and inconvenient dwellings the antiquary will find a rational subject of gratification; and several modern erections reflect credit on the taste and liberality of the inhabitants.

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Shrewsbury.

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St. Mary's, Shrewsbury.

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Bridgenorth.

The origin of the town of Shrewsbury is not traced to a more remote period than the time of the Anglo-Saxons; and the whole of its early history is involved in much obscurity. Subsequent to the Norman conquest it became a military post of considerable importance, and was often the scene of contest between the English and the Welsh. When Wales happily ceased to form a separate state, this frontier town was still honoured with the notice of our sovereigns; and several parliaments were here assembled.

Our limits preclude the notice of minor transactions, and we conduct the reader to a memorable event in the history of Shrewsbury, that battle which terminated the revolt of the Percys of Northumberland against Henry the Fourth. The grounds of this disastrous quarrel will be recollected without our aid. The leaders on the rebellious side were Lord Henry Percy, denominated Hotspur, the Earl of Worcester, and Earl Douglas. The royal army was commanded by the king in person, and the battle was fought on the 22d of July, 1403, the field of action being an open plain extending north of Shrewsbury. The battle commenced at dawn, in a place called *Bullfield*, in the vicinity of the north gate of the town. In the sanguinary business of this important day, Henry Prince of Wales performed his noviciate in arms,

and obtained great glory. The battle is well known to have terminated in the discomfiture of the confederates. Hotspur perished on the field; but the Earl of Worcester and Earl Douglas were taken prisoners, and the former was beheaded at the high cross in this town.

In the civil wars of the seventeenth century Shrewsbury was garrisoned on the side of the king, but was taken by surprise in the year 1644.

In an examination of the principal buildings our attention is first demanded by the *Castle*. This structure was erected by Roger de Montgomery, shortly after the Norman conquest; but was constituted a royal fortress in the time of Henry the First. After the final submission of the Welsh it gradually sank to decay, but was repaired and rendered defensible in the seventeenth century. The remaining buildings chiefly consist of the keep, which is about one hundred feet square, the walls of the inner court, and the great arch of the interior gate. These vestiges of fortification are situated upon a steep bank, on the neck of the peninsula formed by the Severn.

The *Parochial Churches* are six in number, and that which affords the greatest interest is connected with an ancient monastic foundation, once of great celebrity. The early history of this abbey (dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul) is involved in

much obscurity, but its revenues were large, and the structure was re-edified by the above-named Roger de Montgomery.

Independent of the church, few remains of the buildings now exist. These relics stand on the eastern bank of the Severn. The ancient wall which surrounded the abbey precincts is nearly entire on the eastern and northern sides, and encloses a handsome mansion, partly formed from the monastic remains. The most interesting part of the ruins is a small octangular structure, which is usually denominated the *Stone Pulpit*, and is believed to have constituted the reading-desk of the refectory, from which one of the junior brethren recited to the monks a portion of Scripture, or a dissertation on divinity, during their times of repast.

The *Church* of this monastery was partly destroyed on the dissolution of religious houses. The nave is still preserved, and is used as a parochial place of worship, under the appellation of Holy Cross church. The interior possesses an air of majestic simplicity, and retains many marks of Anglo-Norman architecture, interspersed with additions and alterations in the pointed style. The western tower also remains, and is entered by a circular arch, comprising a pointed doorcase of later construction.

The church dedicated to *St. Chad* is a modern erection, of a *circular* form, about one hundred feet in diameter. At the front is a portico, elevated on a flight of steps, and supported on four Doric columns. The steeple consists of a square basement of rustic work, on which rests an octangular belfry, highly enriched with ornaments of the Ionic order. Above the belfry is a cupola, supported by eight Corinthian pillars. This singular structure is greatly deficient in harmony of proportions, and is more estimable for interior accommodation than admirable as an architectural object. The window of the chancel is adorned with painted glass by Egginton, and the communion-table, contrary to the usual practice, is situated in the western part of the building.

The collegiate church of *St. Mary* [179] is said to have been founded by King Edgar, but the collegiate institution was dissolved in the reign of Edward the Sixth. This spacious and venerable fabric is in the form of a cross. From the tower, which is of a low and massive character, rises a lofty spire, forming a conspicuous ornament to the town. The interior exhibits a noble display of ancient architecture, in which the pointed style prevails. The great east window is filled with curious painted glass, and the ceiling of the nave, which is of oak, and richly carved at the intersec-

tions of the ribs, is deemed one of the finest of the kind in the kingdom.

There were convents in this town belonging to the Augustine, Franciscan, and Dominican friars; but only few remains of the buildings are now visible.

Amongst the charitable foundations of Shrewsbury the *Salop Infirmary* is conspicuous, and has the honour of being one of the earliest institutions of its kind. This useful charity was founded in 1745.

The Free-school is a spacious edifice, chiefly erected about the year 1595. At this school were educated, among other distinguished persons, Sir Philip Sydney, and his friend Sir Fulk Greville, Lord Brooke.

The *Town Hall* is a handsome building, completed in 1785, at the expense of eleven thousand pounds. The Severn is crossed by two bridges, both of which are modern and ornamental structures.

Amongst eminent natives of Shrewsbury must be mentioned *Thomas Churchyard,* the poet; and the brave *Admiral Benbow.*

At the distance of four miles from Shrewsbury are the ruins of HAUGHMOND ABBEY, which religious house was founded by William Fitz-Alan in the year 1100. The most interesting part of these ruins consists of the Chapter House, which is of an

style of pointed architecture which prevailed in the thirteenth century); the chapter-house, a fine example of the Anglo-Norman mode of building; and various traces of ambulatories and domestic parts of the edifice.

The Parish Church of Wenlock adjoins the ruinous priory, and exhibits some curious vestiges of Anglo-Norman architecture.

BRIDGENORTH [180], a town of considerable extent, is agreeably seated upon the river Severn, in the south-east part of this county. The town is divided by the river into two parts, which are joined by a bridge. The higher town, which stands upon a hill, and includes the principal street, is the largest division. The houses are in general well-built, and the whole town wears a cheerful and pleasing aspect.

It is believed that a town was first constructed on this site by Ethelfreda, the renowned "Lady of "the Mercians," and daughter of Alfred the Great. A castle was founded here at an early period, and was probably the first building erected at this place by the lady Ethelfreda. This fortress was rebuilt soon after the Norman conquest, and became the theatre of several distinguished military transactions. In the year 1102, during the revolt of the barons against Henry the First, Robert Earl of Shrewsbury defended the castle with great obstinacy, but was at length obliged to capitulate.

Hugh de Mortimer for some time maintained the fortress against the arms of Henry the Second. In the civil wars of the seventeenth century Bridgenorth was garrisoned in favour of the unhappy Charles; and the castle was not surrendered to the Parliament forces until all hope of succour was abandoned, at the end of a gallant resistance which lasted throughout one whole month.

After its surrender to the Parliament-army the castle was reduced to the ground, with the exception of part of one tower. This relic is usually considered an object of some curiosity, on account of its deviation from an upright position. From the effect of undermining, it makes nearly an angle of seventy-three degrees with the horizon, or seventeen from the perpendicular. Sustained by strength of masonry and depth of foundation, it appears likely to maintain this fearful posture for many ages, if spared by the destructive agency of human effort.

The high town contains two parochial churches. That dedicated to St. Leonard is the principal, and is a handsome and spacious structure.

The town of LUDLOW, situated near the Herefordshire border of this county, is conspicuous for beauty of site and excellence of internal arrangement. This town is seated on a fine eminence, and the streets, which lie in diverging and inclined

directions from the highest and central part of the town, are in general wide and well paved. The beauty of the situation, the cleanliness of the town, and the salubrity of the air, have caused numerous respectable families to select Ludlow as a place of residence.

This place has attained considerable distinction in chivalric history; and the charms of poetry unite with the splendour of ancient festive celebrations to alleviate the rigour of its military annals.

Ludlow was formerly surrounded by a wall, parts of which may still be seen in many directions. Seven gates were formed in this embattled outline; one of which only remains at the present time.

The attention of the topographer and traveller is first demanded by the CASTLE, with which building the annals of the town are closely involved. This edifice, now a deserted ruin, appears to have been partly built soon after the Norman conquest; and becoming a royal fortress in the reign of Henry the First, shared, during many succeeding reigns, in the warlike operations of those contentious ages.

In the reign of Henry the Sixth this castle was possessed by Richard Duke of York, undoubtedly the most virtuous and patriotic member of his ambitious family. King Edward the Fourth repaired this noble residence, and made it the court of his eldest son. That youthful prince was here pro-

claimed king, on the decease of his father; but shortly removed to London, at the instigation of his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester.

Under the auspices of the seventh Henry, Ludlow Castle again became a royal abode. Arthur, the eldest son of that monarch, held at this place a court of great magnificence, immediately after his nuptials with Katherine of Arragon. These scenes of splendour were shortly succeeded by the gloom of mourning: within these walls Prince Arthur died, in the April following the date of his marriage.

In the reign of Henry the Eighth the castle became the seat of the Lords Presidents of the Marches; who, from this time until the dissolution of their office in the reign of William and Mary, held their courts in this venerable building.

One noble festival connected with the residence of the Lords Marchers requires particular notice. In the year 1634, and during the presidency of John, Earl of Bridgewater, the Masque of Comus was first represented in Ludlow Castle. It will be remembered that the plan of this beautiful masque had its origin in a real incident. The Lady Alice, daughter of the Earl of Bridgewater, and her two brothers, were benighted in Haywood Forest, Herefordshire, whilst travelling towards Ludlow; and Milton, at the request of his friend Henry Lawes, who taught music in the family, wrote the piece

intituled Comus to commemorate that event. In the first representation the lady and her brothers sustained the parts in which their former perils were rendered subjects of poetical interest.

During the presidency of the Earl of Carbery, in the time of Charles the Second, Butler wrote, in one of the towers of this castle, a part of Hudibras, a poem unparalleled for happy display of humourous satire, and which is so true to nature that it is calculated for all ages, though written to stigmatize particular persons and fantastical opinions.

After the reign of William and Mary the castle sank into progressive decay. The apartments in which kings had feasted and poets had sung were plundered without scruple, and their materials converted to sordid uses.

The remains of the castle are situated at the north-west angle of the town, and comprise the ancient keep and many subordinate towers, together with vestiges of apartments constructed in times more urbane than those in which the structure was merely viewed as a fortress. Amongst the most curious parts must be noticed the chapel, of which the nave alone remains. This building is of a circular form, and affords some beautiful specimens of Anglo-Norman architecture. Public walks are now constructed on the confines of the interesting ruins. These agreeable walks are shaded with trees, and are well calculated to in-

spire reflections on the mutable nature of human grandeur, whilst they afford a place of healthful recreation highly desirable in the neighbourhood of every large town.

The *Church* of Ludlow occupies an elevated spot, and is a spacious building of the cruciform description. The whole edifice is in the pointed style of architecture, and is surmounted by a light and lofty central tower. The interior contains much painted glass and several curious monuments.

WINNINGTON, a small village near the Welsh border of this county, has obtained some fortuitous celebrity as the birth-place of Thomas Parr, a celebrated instance of longevity. This singular person was born in 1483, when Edward the Fourth occupied the English throne, and died in 1635, under the reign of Charles the First, having lived one hundred and fifty-two years, nine months, and some days. His father, it is said, was a farmer, and himself followed the same avocation. In the last year of his life he was conveyed to London, and introduced to the king; but the change of air, and probable alteration in mode of living, quickly destroyed his enfeebled constitution, and he died within six weeks after his arrival in the metropolis.

MIDDLE CASTLE appears to have been erected by Lord John Le Strange, early in the reign of Edward the Second. The family of Le Strange

possessed two other castles in this neighbourhood, both of which were exposed to frequent dangers from their contiguity to the Welsh borders. The remains of this fortified residence consist of one unornamented round-tower, and masses of wall in various directions.

WHITCHURCH, a handsome market-town, is situated on an acclivity, the summit of which is occupied by the parochial church. This edifice was erected, in the place of an ancient and decayed structure, in the year 1722. At the free-school of this town many eminent persons have received education.

HAWKSTONE PARK, the seat of the Hill family, is distant from Whitchurch about nine miles, towards the south. The house is a handsome modern structure, enlarged and improved by Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. father of the present proprietor. The interior comprises many elegant apartments, amongst which the saloon is entitled to particular notice. In this spacious room are preserved some valuable paintings. That representing the "Siege of Namur" is an object of considerable interest, as the five principal characters introduced are portraits from real life. These are King William the Third, the Elector of Bavaria, the Duke of Marlborough, Count Cohorn, and the Right Honourable Richard Hill.

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Lillashall Abbey.

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Boscobel House.

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The Leasowes.

The grounds attached to this mansion constitute a subject of great popular attraction in Shropshire; and their natural beauties are truly deserving of admiration and celebrity. Hill and valley, bold and craggy rocks, a fine expanse of water, and rich extents of venerable wood, combine to produce many fascinating displays of picturesque scenery. Much would it have been to the gratification of the tasteful, if the hand of art had refrained from interference with this fair domain, or had been guided in its operations by a sober judgment. But many of the decorations are so puerile or fantastical, that a feeling of offence is unavoidably excited in the mind of the best-humoured spectator. As an instance, it may be sufficient to mention the contents of a natural cave, called *the Retreat*. Here is placed "the automaton of a hermit, sitting at a table, on which are a scull, an hour-glass, a book, and a pair of spectacles. This machine is made to answer questions, and occasionally to recite some verses, which are inscribed under his mouth!"

In a recluse situation, near the small market-town of *Newport*, stand the remains of LILLESHALL ABBEY [181]. These fine ruins chiefly consist of the walls of the Abbey church, an extensive fabric of the cruciform character. Nearly the whole of this dilapidated pile displays the Anglo-Norman style of architecture, with an exception of the great east window, which is formed by a pointed

arch, of elegant proportions, probably inserted early in the fourteenth century. The walls of the ancient refectory are now converted into a commodious farm-dwelling, and the area of the cloister constitutes the farm-yard.

The iron-works of COALBROOK DALE have been already noticed as the most extensive and important in England. This "Dale" is a winding glen between two vast hills in the contiguity of the Severn, over which river is a magnificent *Iron Bridge*, erected in the year 1779. The span of the arch is one hundred feet six inches; and the height, from the base line to the centre, is forty feet. The road over the bridge is formed of clay and iron-slag, and is twenty-four feet in width. This was considered the most curious and eligible bridge of cast iron in England, until the erection of the splendid fabric over the Thames, between the city of London and Southwark, projected, greatly to the benefit of the metropolis, by Mr. Wyatt.

At a short distance from the village of *Tonge*, on the eastern border of Shropshire, is BOSCOBEL HOUSE, [182] rendered remarkable in English history from having afforded an asylum to Charles the Second, after the disastrous battle of Worcester. The mansion then belonged to Mr. Gifford; and one William Pendrill and his wife, who dwelt there as housekeepers, received the royal fugitive with every practicable attention. It was early morn-

ing when the king (disguised as a woodman) arrived; and, under the guidance of Colonel Careless, he repaired to a contiguous wood, and ascended *an oak tree.* He was exhausted with fatigue; and being furnished with pillows, he resigned himself to sleep amidst the protecting screen afforded by the thickly-spread leaves of that memorable oak.

When night approached he entered the house; and, after a homely repast, was conducted to a recess between two walls, which had been contrived for purposes of concealment. In this house and its vicinity he remained three days, and then departed for Mosely, which was judged a more secure retreat.

The manor-house of Boscobel still remains a monument of this interesting event. Several alterations have taken in the arrangement of the building; but every part supposed to be connected with the circumstances of the king's concealment has been preserved with scrupulous care.

HALES OWEN is a small but respectable town, seated in a pleasant valley. Here was formerly a well-endowed abbey of Premonstratensian canons, founded in the time of King John. Few remains of the buildings are now perceptible, but marks of foundation may be traced to a considerable extent. The parish church of Hales Owen is a capacious structure, adorned with a spire of eminent beauty.

In the vicinity of the above town is the celebrated residence denominated THE LEASOWES, [183] long the favourite retirement of the poet Shenstone. At this place Shenstone was born, in 1714, and he devoted a great part of his life to the improvement of his small hereditary domain. When he commenced this pleasing labour, the science of landscape-gardening was little understood; and he had the merit of first presenting an example of the grand principle of garden arrangement—that of simply displaying the beauties of nature to the best advantage. On this principle were arranged the grounds of the "Leasowes." Their charms have, consequently, captivated every class of visitors, and have communicated a tone to some of the finest pleasure-grounds of modern disposal.

Mr. Shenstone died at the Leasowes, in the year 1763; and considerable alterations have been effected since his decease; but many vestiges of his elegant taste are still apparent, and the remembrance of his poetical genius bestows an air of classical interest on this beautiful place.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

The county of Somerset is situated in the south-west part of the kingdom, and is bounded on the north-west by the Bristol Channel. On the north it meets Gloucestershire, and unites with Wiltshire on the east. Dorsetshire lies to the south-east, and Devonshire to the south-west.

This maritime county possesses a great variety of soil and aspect. The irregular line of its coast presents a frequent diversity of rocky promontory, and fine bays, formed by the hand of nature in the soft recesses of a level shore. The principal parts of the county are intersected by hills of a beautiful character, which, in several instances, approach to a mountainous degree of elevation. The south-western district is the most fertile, and in the highest state of cultivation. In the central part of the county are many extensive fens and moors; and the dreary region of Exmoor encroaches upon Somersetshire towards the north-west.

Dairy-husbandry and grazing constitute the principal object of the farmer's attention. The cattle fed in the rich pastures are scarcely inferior

to any in the kingdom, and the cheese produced is of an excellent quality. The hilly districts afford mineral productions of a valuable kind, amongst which must be noticed coal, lead, copper, and calamine.

The extreme length of this county is about sixty-five miles, and its greatest breadth forty-five. The principal of those numerous small rivers which add to its fertility and beauty are the Lower Avon, the Parret, the Thone, the Brue or Brent, and the Ax.

The city of BATH [184] is well known to form the chief ornament of the west of England, and to be indeed one of the finest cities in the kingdom. This place is entirely indebted for its present importance to those medicinal springs which have long constituted an object of valetudinarian and fashionable resort. The city appears to have been founded by the Romans, and various relics of that people have been discovered, and are carefully preserved in a building exclusively appropriated to their reception. From these vestiges it is evident that our scientific and polished conquerors were thoroughly acquainted with the value of the sanative springs enclosed within the ramparts of their castrametation, and that the city possessed numerous embellished structures whilst Britain was subject to their sway.

After the secession of the Romans, Bath sank into comparative neglect, and is chiefly to be noticed during the Anglo-Saxon ages as the scene of several destructive military contests. Early in the twelfth century it was constituted the see of a bishop; but the seat of episcopal power was shortly removed to Wells, and Bath, throughout a long succeeding period, was chiefly indebted for celebrity to the patronage afforded by the inmates of its *Abbey*. The Monks on this foundation had the merit of introducing the manufacture of cloth to the inhabitants, which was cultivated with memorable success. Subsequent to the dissolution of monasteries, Bath experienced considerable neglect, and was a place of only moderate trade, and of little resort, until a tutelary genius arose, in the person of the far-famed *Richard Nash*. This celebrated personage had long been known to the world of fashion, as a votary of pleasure capable of imparting the zest of wit and novelty to the routine of dissipation. About the year 1704, he was appointed Master of the Ceremonies in this city; and, under his auspices, Bath speedily became one of the most distinguished places in the kingdom for pleasure, elegance, and taste. Policy, in this instance, sanctioned the capricious direction of the fashionable vortex. Attracted by the song, the dance, and popular persuasion, the sick found benefit beyond the relief of tedium; and the

waters were restored to a height of celebrity which they have ever since maintained.

Viewed as a place of pleasurable resort, Bath may safely be affirmed to have few rivals. From the date at which Mr. Nash acceded to power, down to the present time, the buildings have equally increased in number and elegance. The modern squares and streets are of noble proportions, and the domestic buildings wear an air of imposing grandeur, on account of the freestone material of which they are invariably composed. Amongst the finest of these modern ranges of capacious dwellings, must be noticed the *Crescent*, [185] of which we present a view. This noble assemblage of domestic structures occupies an elevated situation, and has been said to present one of the most admirable modern elevations of the Ionic order in Europe.

In a perambulation of this gay city, the attention will probably be first directed to buildings connected with the festive, or medicinal, pursuits of the place. The Public Baths are four in number, and are enclosed in handsome structures, provided with suitable accommodations for their numerous visitants. The Pump-Room is 85 feet in length, and 45 feet in breadth. This spacious apartment was erected on the site of a former building in 1796, and is supported and adorned with Corinthian columns. At the west end is a music-

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Crescent, Bath.

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Bath.

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Farleigh House.

gallery; and at the east a statue of Mr. Nash. In the centre of the south side is a marble vase, from which the waters issue, and are handed warm to the company. The Theatre is a fabric of considerable elegance; and the Assembly Rooms are well suited to the reception of fashionable company.

Amongst buildings venerable for antiquity, or requiring notice from appropriation or architectural beauty, the *Abbey Church* is most conspicuous. This structure was completed in the year 1532, and is an object of great curiosity, as the last building executed in this country in the genuine pointed, or English style. The character of architecture is that which is usually denominated "Florid Gothic," and the building exhibits a beautiful example of that costly but fantastic mode. The tracery of the windows, and the interspersed sculpture, demand attentive examination. The monuments in the interior are extremely numerous, and are frequently erected to persons of public interest. The other places of religious worship in Bath are comparatively modern, and by no means eminent for architectural grandeur.

The Charitable Institutions are numerous, and supported on a liberal scale. Amongst these must be particularly noticed the *General Hospital*, which is established for the reception of all the sick poor of the united kingdom (with the exception of those residing in the city of Bath), whose

complaints require the use of the medicinal waters of this place.

John Hales, born at Bath in 1584, was one of the most distinguished scholars of his age. Some few of his writings were published, after his decease, under the title of "Golden Remains of the ever-memorable John Hales."

The vicinity of this splendid city is adorned with many elegant mansions and pleasing villages. Few of the seats demand more careful notice than PRIOR PARK, the residence of the Allen family. This superb building is composed of Bath stone, and is designed in the Corinthian order. The principal front is nearly 150 feet in length, with two pavilions, and wings containing offices, united in the centre by arcades. The situation is extremely beautiful, and the fabric acquires much extrinsic interest from its connection with several eminent literary characters. This noble building was erected about the year 1740 by Ralph Allen, Esq., who amassed a considerable fortune by farming the *cross-posts* throughout the kingdom. The wealth acquired by this honourable exercise of talent and industry, Mr. Allen employed in the indulgence of benevolence, and the patronage of men conspicuous for mental excellence. Pope was his frequent guest, and has panegyrised his hospitable friend (though in terms not remarkable for felicity of selection) under the name of "low-born

Allen." Henry Fielding was also a favoured visitor, and wrote a great part of his inimitable "Tom Jones" in the neighbourhood of this seat. As a lasting memorial of the protection and friendship he experienced, Fielding described Prior Park as the residence of Mr. Allworthy, a well-known character in that celebrated work. The learned Warburton married a niece of Mr. Allen, and is believed to have attained the bishopric of Gloucester through his influence.

In the neighbourhood of the above seat is LANSDOWN HILL, on which was fought a memorable battle in the year 1643 between the Royalists and the Parliamentary forces. After an obstinate contest victory decided in favour of the King's troops, but with a dreadful loss of men, including some of the most gallant of the cavaliers, amongst whom was Sir Bevil Grenville. A monument of freestone, erected on the field of contest, denotes the spot on which that loyal and distinguished soldier received his death-wound.

FARLEIGH HOUSE [186], a spacious and magnificent mansion in the style often termed "Go-"thic," is distant from Bath about six miles. In the neighbourhood of this seat are the ruins of the ancient castle and abbey of Farleigh, long the property of the Hungerfords. The chapel of the former structure exhibits some curious traces of anti-

quity, and many interesting monuments to different members of the Hungerford family.

The city of WELLS, although far inferior to Bath in extent and splendour of domestic buildings, has yet considerable claims on the notice of the architectural antiquary and the admirer of picturesque scenery. This ancient city stands in the vicinity of the Mendip Hills, a range of lofty elevations abounding in charms for the naturalist. The buildings are in general neat, and the whole place wears a cleanly and inviting air.

This city has constituted the see of the bishops of Bath and Wells from a very early period; and the *Cathedral Church* of the diocese forms its principal object of attraction. The whole of the building is in the pointed style, and displays several modifications of that sublime character of architecture. The exterior is conspicuous for grandeur of design and richness of ornament, in nearly every division; but the west front is calculated to excite the attention most forcibly. This magnificent façade presents a gorgeous display of the statues of tutelary saints and benefactors, the niches in which they are placed being adorned by superb canopies. The figures are nearly the size of life, and are chiefly placed in three stories. This part of the building was erected in the early part of the thirteenth century.

The beauty of the interior amply gratifies the expectations excited by an external view. The nave and transepts appear to have been built in the time of Henry the Third. The arches of the former part of the structure are of a contracted, but regular form, and are sustained by eighteen clustered columns. The choir has undergone many alterations, and is chiefly of a more recent date. All the windows in this division of the church are highly enriched with tracery, and the great east window is filled with painted glass. At the eastern termination of the edifice is the chapel of the Virgin Mary, which was erected in the fifteenth century, and is one of the finest instances extant of the architectural style which then prevailed.

The monuments are numerous, and several possess considerable interest.

The *Bishop's Palace* presents, in its most ancient parts, a curious and impressive memorial of the repulsive manners of former ages. This extensive building is surrounded by a moat, and formerly wore, throughout the whole of its courts and turrets, the aspect of a castle inhabited by a lay-baron in times of factious contention. The embattled part of the fabric is now in a state of ruin. The present residence of the bishop is a handsome building, of a comparatively modern character, but situated within the ancient walls of defence.

The town of GLASTONBURY [187], about five miles distant from Wells, is indebted for its origin to its monastic institutions, which have been ascribed by fabulous writers to a date nearly coeval with christianity. It has been said that the *Abbey* [188] of Glastonbury was instituted by St. Joseph of Arimathea; but a tale so romantic is at present confined to the monkish annals in which it originated. The judicious now attribute the foundation to an Anglo-Saxon age; and little is known concerning the credible history of the establishment, until a date considerably more recent. The remains of the buildings are situated on the south side of the High-street, and consist chiefly of the Chapel of St. Joseph, which is a splendid and picturesque ruin, in that mixed style of architecture that prevailed towards the close of the twelfth century. One portion of the domestic parts of the monastery is, however, still preserved, and is an object of much curiosity. This building formed the abbot's kitchen, and is nearly of a unique form and character. In shape it is octangular, and has four fire-places, one in each angle, with eight funnels for emitting the smoke and steam through windows. Numerous scattered vestiges of other parts of this extensive and celebrated monastery are still perceptible, worked into other buildings, but often deprived of their original architectural character.

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Glastonbury.

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Glastonbury Abbey.

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Bristol Cathedral.

Glastonbury contains two handsome *parochial churches;* and the antiquarian visitor will be much gratified by an examination of the *Tor*, or *Tower of St. Michael*, which is situated on a lofty hill, at a short distance from the monastery, towards the north-east. The present structure, thus denominated, was erected shortly after the year 1271, on the site of a building overthrown by the convulsive effects of an earthquake.

SHARPHAM PARK, in the vicinity of the above town, is deserving of attention, as the birth-place of Henry Fielding, assuredly the best novelist ever produced by this country. This able writer, who rivalled Rabelais and Cervantes in the happy art of presenting nature to contemplation in her most humorous forms, was born in 1707, and passed his early years in the neighbourhood of his natal spot.

TAUNTON, one of the most considerable towns in this county, is conspicuous for the beauty of its situation, and the eligible character of its domestic buildings. The surrounding country is not less fertile than picturesque. The houses are, in general, well built, and possess, in most instances, a feature nearly unique; that of a small garden in front, bestowing a rural and agreeable air, unusual in a town so populous.

Vestiges of Roman antiquity have been discovered at this place; and the town was, undoubtedly, in a flourishing state during the sway of the

Anglo-Saxons. There are still some remains of a castle, originally built by King Ina, about the year 700, but re-edified subsequent to the Norman conquest. In the reign of James the Second, Taunton became unhappily noted as the scene of many barbarous executions after the fight at Sedgmoor, which proved fatal to the views of the Duke of Monmouth.

There are two *Churches*, the most elegant of which is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and is a sumptuous structure in that highly-decorated style which prevailed in the fifteenth century, and is usually denominated the *florid*. The Tower is 153 feet in height, and is perforated with numerous windows, and adorned with a great variety of elaborate ornaments. The capacious interior of the church is richly embellished, and the windows present some dilapidated, but curious traces of painted glass.

The manufacture of coarse woollen goods is cultivated to some extent in this town, and the malt liquor produced in various large breweries forms a profitable article of exportation.

The large and populous town of BRIDGEWATER is situated upon the river Parret, and surrounded by a flat, but well-wooded country. The river is here navigable to vessels of a moderate burthen, and the inhabitants cultivate a lucrative traffic with Bristol, and other adjacent ports. This was a

place of great consequence in the middle ages; and it is mentioned, as a proof of its ancient, as well as present prosperity, that the revenues of the Corporation amount to more than £10,000 *per annum*. This place experienced considerable damage during the civil wars of the seventeenth century. Its ancient castle was then garrisoned by the royalists, and sustained a memorable siege, but was at length surrendered. It is worthy of remark, that the tract now denominated the *Castle Field*, was the place on which the ill-fated Duke of Monmouth encamped, after being proclaimed King at Taunton.

The *Parochial Church* is a large and handsome building, having a fine tower, surmounted by a spire of beautiful proportions, 174 feet in height. The *Town Hall* is a capacious and eligible building, and there are several useful charitable institutions.

Robert Blake, the celebrated admiral, who raised the English navy to a high degree of renown in the time of the Commonwealth, was born at Bridgewater in the year 1599.

The parish of EASTLING, about seven miles to the south of Bridgewater, is rendered an object of great historical curiosity, from its connection with the *Isle of Athelney*, the spot to which the great Alfred retired, when the Danes obtained the ascendant, and exertion was hopeless. On this spot

King Alfred afterwards founded an abbey, which has long since sunk in utter ruin, and the site on which it stood is now under tillage.

ENMORE CASTLE, the seat of the Earl of Egmont, is a spacious quadrangular mansion, and presents one of the most complete examples of the modern imitation of ancient castellated buildings. The structure is surrounded by a deep and wide dry ditch, crossed by a drawbridge. The whole exterior is embattled; and at each angle of the edifice rises a semicircular bastion. The interior comprises many splendid apartments, often containing, in their furniture and arrangement, allusions to ancient times of chivalry.

The whole of this part of the county is highly cultivated, and adorned with numerous villas. After a notice of Ensmore, the most conspicuous seat is HALSWELL HOUSE, a noble residence, erected about the year 1689 by Sir Halswell Tynte. Many valuable pictures are preserved in this mansion, and the grounds are believed to exhibit the finest scenery in this part of England.

In the parish of STANTON DREW is a curious monument of British antiquity, consisting of the remains of four clusters of huge and massive stones, forming two circles, an oblong and an ellipsis. The largest of the circles is 300 feet in diameter, and composed of fourteen large stones, some of which now lie flat on the ground.

The CITY OF BRISTOL is situated near the north-east extremity of this county, and is partly comprised in Gloucestershire. This city is well known to constitute the great emporium of trade for the western counties; and is, in many respects, entitled to the deliberate attention of the traveller. Bristol stands on the banks of the Avon and the Frome, at the confluence of those two rivers, and at about the distance of ten miles from the place at which the former discharges itself into the Severn. The buildings are chiefly erected upon several natural elevations (a circumstance of site evidently favourable to cleanliness and health); but the ancient part of the city is of a crowded character, equally inimical to architectural beauty and local cleanliness. The modern streets are numerous, and are in general arranged on a commodious and ornamental plan.

The public structures of this ancient city are, in several instances, calculated to excite the admiration of the examiner. The *Cathedral* [189] of Bristol was originally the collegiate church of the monastery of St. Augustine. This fabric is chiefly in that mode of pointed architecture which prevailed in the fourteenth century, and displays considerable grandeur, although curtailed in proportions. The cathedral now consists only of a choir, its aisles, and a transept with an elegant tower. The period at which the nave and west front were

taken down is not accurately ascertained, but the mutilation probably occurred at a date immediately subsequent to the dissolution, and before King Henry the Eighth had consented to create a bishop's see at this place. The interior contains many interesting monuments.

Independent of the cathedral Bristol comprises eighteen churches, several of which are respectable and commodious structures, and that of *St. Mary Redcliff* [190] is of such transcendant beauty as to be universally esteemed the finest parochial church in the kingdom. This celebrated structure is in the form of a cross, and is designed in a rich but light modification of the pointed style. The extreme length of the exterior is 230 feet, and the width 117. The exquisite symmetry, and judicious disposal of the ornamental parts of the interior, cannot be too highly commended. It has been remarked that "the best views of the inside of the "church are, perhaps, at the western door, under "the middle of the cross, and at the high altar." We must not omit to mention that the muniment room, an apartment over the beautiful northern porch of Redcliff church, was the spot on which Chatterton found, or pretended to find, the poems published under the name of Rowley.

The charitable foundations, and schools for gratuitous education, are extremely numerous. The public buildings devoted to the administration of

190 SOMERSETSHIRE.

Redcliff Church Bristol.

191 STAFFORDSHIRE.

Manor House, Burton on Trent.

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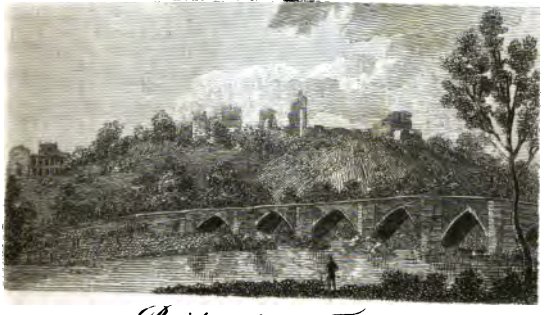

Bridge &c. Tutbury.

justice and to commercial purposes are likewise numerous, and generally reflect credit on the judgment and liberality of this opulent city. Amongst these must be noticed the Post Office, a spacious edifice of freestone, erected about the year 1743, at the expense of £50,000.

The foreign trade of Bristol is chiefly directed to the West Indies; but extensive interchanges are also effected with the north and south of Europe and America. The trade with Ireland is very considerable. The manufactures of this city and its vicinity are in a thriving state, and furnish the merchants with several profitable articles of exportation.

Bristol claims the following amongst other eminent natives:—William Grocyne, a celebrated scholar and the friend of Erasmus, William Botoner, Sir William Draper, Thomas Chatterton, Mrs. Robinson, and Anne Yearsley.

The hot-wells of Clifton, and the contiguous romantic scenery, have been already noticed in our account of Gloucestershire.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

STAFFORDSHIRE is an inland county, lying nearly in the centre of England. In form it is long and narrow, and is bounded on the east by Warwickshire and Derbyshire, on the west by Shropshire and Cheshire, and on the south by the county of Worcester.

The aspect of this district varies considerably in different parts. In the central and southern divisions the country is chiefly level, or only interspersed with occasional eminences, acting as exceptions to the general character. Towards the north the surface assumes a contrary aspect. The frequent hills there rise to a bolder altitude, with large intermingled stretches of moorland; and the climate is more severely bleak than in most other parts of South Britain.

This county is extremely rich in mineral productions. Coals abound in many parts; and iron-ore is uniformly found in the same districts. Lead and copper mines are worked with considerable advantage, and salt springs have been discovered in several directions.

Staffordshire has long been celebrated for its potteries, in which are produced a great variety of useful and ornamental articles, certainly not inferior to any manufacture in Europe, and perhaps, in many respects, more desirable than the best productions of China.

The principal rivers are the Trent, the Dove, the Manifold, the Tame, the Blythe, and the Stour.

LICHFIELD, the seat of episcopal power in this district, first rose into distinction in the seventh century, at which time it was constituted the see of a bishop by Oswy, King of Mercia. This small but agreeable city is situated in a fine valley, surrounded by hills of a moderate height and easy ascent. The buildings are divided into two portions, termed the *city* and the *close*, by a large and ornamental sheet of water. The latter district occupies an elevated situation, and is chiefly inhabited by the residentiary dignitaries of the cathedral, and families of independent fortune. The houses in every part of the town are in general commodious, although this place is by no means conspicuous for extensive commerce. The principal manufacture cultivated here is that of sailcloth.

The great architectural ornament of Lichfield is its venerable *Cathedral*. The present edifice was chiefly erected in the reign of Henry the Third; and, although altered in many parts, still presents

a magnificent example of the chaste and beautiful style which prevailed during the reign of that king and his successor. The exterior possesses much impressive dignity, and attains an air of unusual lightness from three lofty spires, which spring from graceful towers, enriched with elaborate workmanship. The west front ranks amongst the finest façades in Europe, and is adorned with numerous sculptured figures. In viewing the interior, the nave requires particular attention. This part of the structure has been mentioned by a judicious writer on ecclesiastical antiquities (Mr. Wild) as "a beautiful specimen of that purity of style "which the pointed architecture was beginning "to acquire, about the middle of the thirteenth "century."

The windows of this church are believed to present a greater variety of stained glass than those of any other English cathedral. The glass of seven of the large windows at the east end was lately presented by Sir Brooke Boothby, Bart. and comprises the finest specimens in the whole collection. The monuments are unusually numerous, elegant, and interesting. Many are erected to characters of public worth and distinguished talent; and others equally command admiration from excellence of execution. Among the latter must be noticed an exquisite piece of sculpture by Mr. Chantrey, representing two sleeping children, the effigies of the

innocent corses which lie beneath. A broken flower, of early but deceptive promise, is loosely held in the hand of one of these sweet figures; and the expressive simplicity of each countenance is quite indescribable. It must be remarked that the sculptural part of this fine performance was publicly exhibited at Somerset-house, previous to being placed at Lichfield; and the powers of the representation appealed so forcibly to the parental bosom, that scarcely one maternal female beheld it without shedding tears!

Lichfield is divided into three parishes. The church dedicated to St. Chad is the most ancient of the parochial edifices, but has experienced considerable alterations.

Amongst eminent natives occur the names of Elias Ashmole; Bishops Smallridge and Newton; and Dr. Samuel Johnson.

Burton-upon-Trent is situated on the north bank of the river from which it derives the latter portion of its name. This is a town of considerable antiquity, and was enriched with an abbey, founded by Alfric, Earl of Mercia, previous to the Norman conquest. On part of the site formerly occupied by the extensive buildings, the *Manor-house* [191] now stands. In this structure are to be traced the outlines of a spacious window, originally inserted in the east end of a chapel. This town suffered greatly in the civil wars of the seventeenth century,

and was several times taken and retaken by the contending parties.

Burton now consists of one principal street, and another smaller thoroughfare, crossing it at right angles. Amongst the domestic buildings occur several specimens of ancient architecture; and the bridge over the river Trent, which consists of thirty-six arches, is a curious fabric, of a very remote date. This place is celebrated for the excellence of its *ale*, which is well known in most parts of England, and forms a profitable article of exportation.

At the distance of four miles from Burton is the town of TUTBURY [192], a place of much celebrity in the middle ages. In this town a castle of great strength was either founded or rebuilt, shortly after the Norman conquest, by the family of De Ferrars. Falling to the crown by forfeiture, it was granted by Henry the Third to his son Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, and was afterwards nearly rebuilt by John of Gaunt, about the year 1350.

Whilst forming the principal seat of the dukes of Lancaster, this castle was distinguished by numerous scenes of festivity and splendour. In the sixteenth century the decaying walls were doomed to receive an illustrious inmate, for whose ear music and revelry had no charm, and who might, indeed, be described as "wedded to calamity." To the castle of Tutbury Mary Queen of Scots was re-

moved in 1568, under the custody of the Earl of Shrewsbury; and here she remained until the month of November in the following year. This venerable fabric sustained a siege in the seventeenth century, and was soon after dismantled, by order of parliament. The few remains which still exist denote its former grandeur and extent. The ancient gateway is in a tolerable state of preservation, and the plan of many of the apartments may still be traced.

The *Priory* of Tutbury was founded at the same time with the castle; and the holy brotherhood attained great wealth and importance. The domestic parts of the building are entirely destroyed; but the church still remains, and is used as the parochial place of worship. This is a large and weighty building, exhibiting many traces of Anglo-Norman architecture.

It may be remarked, before we quit our notice of Tutbury, that this place became the subject of public conversation, some few years back, on account of an imposture practised by a woman named Ann Moore, who affirmed that she had subsisted for nearly five years without aliment of any description. The falsehood of her assertions was at length detected, but not without some difficulty.

Tamworth is finely situated at the confluence of the rivers Tame and Anker, the former of which runs through the town, dividing it into nearly equal

parts, one of which is in this county and the other in Warwickshire. This was a place of considerable note at an early period, and afforded a favourite residence to several Anglo-Saxon kings. The town was afterwards destroyed by the Danes, but was rebuilt by Ethelfreda, the celebrated daughter of Alfred the Great.

By that distinguished lady a tower, or fortress, was erected at this place, on an artificial mount; and in succeeding ages a more commanding and superb fabric was raised, partly upon the same site. The Castle of Tamworth was the property and residence of the Lords Marmion and Ferrars for many ages, and was lately possessed by the Marquis Townshend. This is a noble specimen of ancient baronial grandeur, both on the exterior and in regard to the arrangement of the apartments; and it is much to be regretted that it has not been preserved with a decorous respect for the claims of ancestry.

The town of Tamworth is large and well-built, and is surrounded on all sides by a fertile and picturesque tract of country. The *Parish Church* was formerly collegiate, and is an extensive pile, displaying a great and curious variety of architecture, from the time of the Anglo-Normans down to a recent date. The interior contains many interesting monuments. Here are an hospital, founded and endowed by Mr. Guy, to whom the borough

STAFFORDSHIRE.

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Enville Hall.

SUFFOLK.

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Woodbridge.

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Rendlesham House.

of Southwark is indebted for a noble institution; and a grammar-school, founded by Queen Elizabeth. The inhabitants are extensively engaged in the printing of calicoes; in tanneries; and other lucrative branches of trade.

ENVILLE HALL [196], the mansion of the Earl of Stamford, is a capacious and noble building, consisting of a centre and two wings, the former receding considerably, and having an octangular tower at each extremity. The greater part of this structure is of modern erection, but an agreeable, although deceptive, air of antiquity pervades the recent additions. The windows are of the pointed form, and an embattled parapet runs along the top, and is judiciously contrived to conceal the roof. The attached grounds are extremely beautiful, and were chiefly laid out after designs of the poet Shenstone, so justly celebrated for a correct taste in landscape-gardening.

STAFFORD, the county town of this district, occupies a low, but not unpleasant situation on the north bank of the river Sow, at the distance of three miles from its junction with the Trent. Few memorable events respecting this town are preserved in history. The first notice of the place relates to a castle founded here by Ethelfreda, to whom Tamworth was indebted for a similar building. No vestiges of that structure now remain, and even its site is unknown. A more potent for-

tress was constructed by William the Conqueror, which was re-edified in the reign of Edward the Third, and was garrisoned by the royalists, in the civil wars of the seventeenth century. The castle was surrendered to the parliamentary forces in 1644, and was soon afterwards demolished.

The town of Stafford is in general well-built, and the public structures are creditable to the liberal spirit of the inhabitants and the county at large. The Hall for the transaction of county business is a spacious and handsome edifice; and the County Infirmary, although not on a large scale, is an institution productive of much benefit. This town consists of one parish only, but has two churches for the exercise of the established religion. The church dedicated to *St. Mary* is an extensive pile, of the cruciform character. In the most ancient parts are still remaining considerable traces of early English architecture, but great alterations have taken place in the principal divisions of the fabric. Several curious monuments are dispersed in different parts, and the front is an interesting relic of antiquity. The church of *St. Chad* is partly in the Anglo-Norman style of architecture, but was cased with brick early in the last century.

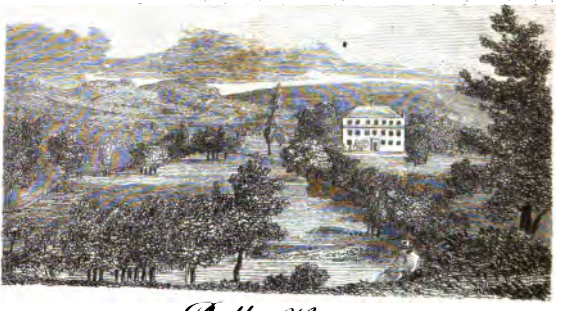
There were formerly two monastic institutions in this town, but scarcely any vestiges of the buildings are now to be seen.

Old Gate House Tixall.

194

Croxden Abbey.

195



Ball Haye.

At the distance of four miles from Stafford is TIXAL HALL, the seat of Thomas Clifford, Esq. The present mansion is a modern building of brick, and occupies the site of a fine and venerable edifice, erected by Sir Edward Aston, early in the reign of Henry the Eighth. The *Gate-House* [193] of that ancient structure is still remaining, and has been selected as the subject of one of our engravings. This curious relic was built by Sir Walter Aston, who died in 1589, and presents a curious, but fantastical mixture of the classic and ancient English styles. It may be remarked, that Sir Walter Aston, under whose auspices this gateway was erected, was the particular friend and patron of the poet Drayton, who celebrates his "bounty" in the work entitled "Polyolbion."

ECCLESHALL, a neat and pleasant market-town in the western part of the county, is rendered of some topographical interest by its *Castle*, which has long appertained to the see of Lichfield and Coventry. The present palatial structure appears to have been chiefly erected in the early part of the fourteenth century, but was much neglected by its episcopal lords until the time of Bishop Lloyd. By that prelate the southern front of the edifice was rebuilt, about the year 1695; and the castle has ever since formed the customary residence of his successors.

WOLVERHAMPTON, the most populous town in Staffordshire, is situated in the neighbourhood of numerous coal mines and iron works. The town occupies an elevated site, and contains many eligible dwellings; but is more conspicuous for manufactures and trade, than for local or architectural beauty. The inhabitants have been for many ages celebrated for the manufacture of the best locks and keys made in England. Japanned ware, and various articles of iron work, also constitute important branches of their trade.

The parish of Wolverhampton is one of the largest in South Britain, a proof of the former scantiness of its population. Its circumference is scarcely less than thirty miles, and it now contains seventeen considerable villages and townships. The *Church* of Wolverhampton is collegiate, and is an extensive and interesting building, in the pointed style. The pulpit, which is composed of stone, is an object of great curiosity, and the font is extremely ancient, and adorned with much sculpture.

The parish of ILAM has been described as "exhibiting one of the most solemn and romantic pieces of scenery in the whole county, perhaps in any other part of Great Britain." In the same work it is observed, that the seat of Mr. Clive, situated at this place, suggests the idea of a glen

in the Alps. "Here the two rivers, the *Hamps* "and *Manyfold*, rise from under the limestone "hills, under which they run for several miles, in "separate streams. That these rivers during their "subterraneous passage run in distinct streams, "has been demonstrated by throwing pieces of "cork into the streams above. The steep and "lofty precipices surrounding the valley of Ilam, "and forming an entire amphitheatre, are nearly "covered with oak and other wood; and the "pleasure-walks from the seat on one side of these "precipices are wonderfully romantic and various. "These walks, resembling shelves, are almost per-"pendicularly above another; by the side of which, "nature, with scarcely any assistance from art, "has furnished a profusion of flowers."

Among the *memorabilia* of this picturesque and interesting parish, may be noticed the Tomb, Well, and Ash of *St. Bertram*, to which canonized person are attributed numerous miracles wrought in this county. The reader will probably derive more gratification from finding, that in a grotto at this place Congreve wrote his first and best comedy, entitled the "Old Bachelor." Mr. Pitt remarks on this situation, that "it is very advantageous "for composing: the shady bower above, the "murmuring stream below, the recluse and re-"tired situation, without the reach or hearing of "noisy intruders, all conspire to fix the mind upon

"its individual object, and enable it to send forth "an effusion of its collected powers."

CROXDEN ABBEY, [194] distant five miles from the town of *Uttoxeter*, was founded in the twelfth century, for Cistercian monks. The remains of this extensive building are seated in a narrow valley, watered and rendered fertile by a rivulet of slow progress. The principal part of the ruins consist of the west end of the church, the wall of the south transept, part of the cloister, and the outer walls of the Chapter House. Many distinguished persons were buried within the now-desecrated boundaries of this solemn pile. Among the funeral memorials, it must be noticed that the *heart* of *King John* was here deposited.

The small but flourishing town of LEEK, situated in the northern part of the county, on the borders of the moorland district, derives an increasing prosperity from the cultivation of silk and mohair manufactures. This town possesses few architectural attractions, but the following circumstance, connected with its natural history, is too curious to be omitted. "Owing to the interven-"tion of a craggy mountain, at a considerable "distance westward of the town, the sun ap-"parently sets twice in the same evening, at a cer-"tain time of the year; for after it sets behind the "top of the mountain, it breaks out again on the

"northern side of it, which is steep, before it "reaches the horizon in its fall."

BALL HAYE, [195] the seat of J. Ulme, Esq., M.D., occupies a beautiful and romantic situation near the town of Leek. The building is partly encompassed by rocky hills, the principal of which has been lately planted with mountain trees by the present possessor of the estate. In the vicinity of this residence is a reservoir of water, covering more than 200 acres of land, for the benefit of a neighbouring canal. The banks are well-wooded, and the water assumes the picturesque appearance of a natural lake.

SHUGBOROUGH, the seat of Viscount Anson, is one of the most superb mansions in this county, and is seated in a vale of exquisite beauty. The different apartments are enriched with numerous works of art, and a truly valuable collection of books. The grounds are highly adorned with statues, and other artificial ornaments, but are still more estimable on account of the picturesque character bestowed by the hand of nature. At this place was born the late Lord Anson, one of our most distinguished naval commanders and circumnavigators.

SUFFOLK.

This county is bounded on the north by Norfolk, and on the east is washed, throughout a long extent of coast, by the German Ocean. On the south it is divided from Essex by the river Stour, and on the west it unites with Cambridgeshire. Its greatest length is about fifty-eight miles, and its extreme width thirty. The face of the country is in general level, and bare of wood; but the soil is in many parts of a valuable character, and the system of husbandry pursued is of exemplary excellence. It is worthy of observation, that the soil has been, in frequent instances, improved by a manure locally called *Crang*, which is peculiar to this county, and is composed of dry powdered shells. The climate is believed to be one of the driest in the kingdom; but the frosts are severe, and the north-east winds in spring are sharp and prevalent.

It has been remarked, that "on a survey of the "domestic buildings of this county, the neglect of "elegance and convenience in those of gentlemen "of a certain property, as well as in farm-houses,

cannot fail to strike the observer." There are, however, numerous mansions of considerable splendour; and it must be noticed, in alleviation of the above censure, that the farm-dwellings are in general considerably improved within the last few years.

The principal rivers are the Stour, the Orwell, or Gipping, the Deben, the Ald, the Blythe, the Larke, the Waveney, and Little Ouse.

Ipswich, the capital of this county, is agreeably situated on the side of a hill which rises from the margin of the river Orwell. Hills of considerable elevation protect the town from the inclement winds of the north and east, and afford springs which furnish the inhabitants with an inexhaustible supply of excellent water. This is a place of considerable antiquity, and was formerly surrounded with a rampart, entered by four principal gates. The streets are well paved; but, like those of most old towns, are narrow and irregular. Many of the domestic buildings afford curious examples of ancient architecture, and are profusely adorned with carved figures and various devices.

Ipswich is said to have formerly contained twenty-one parochial churches; but the number at present is no more than twelve. These are, in general, respectable structures, and in several instances afford pleasing specimens of pointed

architecture, and likewise contain interesting monuments.

In the Roman Catholic ages, this town was enriched by different monastic foundations, of which considerable remains are yet to be seen. In the parish of St. Mary at Kay was a house of Black Friars, instituted in the reign of Henry the Third. Great part of this edifice still exists, and is now occupied for the several purposes of a free grammar-school; a school of more humble character, in which a certain number of poor boys are provided with maintenance and instruction; and a library for the use of the town. The Cloister also is still preserved. Some valuable possessions of this religious house were alienated in the reign of Henry the Eighth, by Cardinal Wolsey, and given to the college which he founded at this place.

Westward of the church of St. Nicholas stood a convent of Friars Minors, founded in the reign of Edward the First. A small portion of this edifice is yet to be seen in the grounds of a gardener, which now occupy the site.

The Priory of St. Peter and St. Paul, founded in the reign of Henry the Second, was suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey, for the use of his college.

The *Collegiate foundation,* designed by Wolsey as a mark of regard to this his native place, was amply endowed, and promised to become an institution of equal utility and celebrity. But the

buildings were scarcely completed when the Cardinal fell into disgrace; and the whole fabric was granted by the crown to private hands. No part now remains, except the gate, which adjoins the east side of St. Peter's church-yard, and is a handsome structure, composed of brick. On a square tablet of stone are carved the arms of Henry the Eighth.

The *Market-place* is spacious, and has in the centre a handsome cross, with commodious shambles, vulgarly said to have been erected by Cardinal Wolsey. They were, however, first constructed by an opulent inhabitant, named Daundy, and were chiefly rebuilt, as they at present appear, about the year 1600. A new market, of a character peculiarly eligible, and occupying nearly an acre of ground, was completed in the year 1811.

The Charity Schools, and other benevolent institutions of this town, are numerous, and reflect great credit on the liberal spirit of the inhabitants.

Ipswich was formerly celebrated for the manufactures of broad cloth and canvas; but its principal traffic at present consists in malting and corn-dealing. The exportation of these articles is facilitated by the estuary of the Orwell, which is navigable for light vessels up to the town.

Several eminent persons were natives of this place, the principal of whom was Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, born in 1471, and commonly, but as it

would appear erroneously, said to have been the son of a butcher.

Orwell Park, in this neighbourhood, is the seat of the Vernon family. The mansion, which is beautifully situated on the estuary of the Orwell, was rebuilt by the nephew of the celebrated Admiral Vernon. This demesne commands some of the most attractive prospects on the banks of the fine water whence it derives its name.

Near the margin of the same estuary is Preston Tower, a strong quadrangular building of brick, with a polygonal turret at each angle.

This singular structure is, in dimensions of ground-plan, not more than about twelve feet by ten, but is six stories high, and contains as many rooms, one over the other. The tower appears to have been designed for purposes of observation, if intended for any other than a mere pleasurable retreat. Its date of erection is not exactly known, but it appears to have been built since the time of Henry the Seventh.

Ickworth Park, the seat of the Earl of Bristol, is scarcely inferior in extent to any imparked demesne in the kingdom, being eleven miles in circumference. The present residence of the noble proprietor was planned by the late Earl, for the purpose of depositing in it the various works of art which he had collected during a long residence in Italy. The building was, however, left in an in-

complete state, owing to the circumstance of the Earl's collections falling into the hands of the French, but is still an extensive and curious, though unique structure. The centre is nearly circular, and is composed of the Ionic and Corinthian orders, several parts being likewise adorned with fine basso relievos. The wings and the galleries, connecting the principal apartments with the centre, have been worked only to the height of three or four feet. The designs for this edifice were furnished by Italian artists.

The populous and respectable town of BURY ST. EDMUND'S occupies so agreeable a situation, and is so highly celebrated for purity of air, that it has been termed, by persons prepossessed in its favour, the Montpelier of England. This admired town is seated on a rising ground, and commands extensive prospects over a fertile tract of surrounding country.

Bury was a place of considerable consequence in the Anglo-Saxon ages, and has been ascribed by some writers to a Roman origin. The second name, or distinctive appellation of this town, is derived from King Edmund the Martyr, who was put to death by the pagan Danes, in the latter part of the ninth century. The remains of this pious prince were deposited in the chapel of Hoxne, and shortly obtained so great a reputation for the power of working miracles, that they were removed to

Bury, where a church of comparative magnitude was erected for their preservation. A conventual establishment was founded before the expiration of the tenth century; and, through the munificence of various royal and other benefactors, it progressively became one of the most affluent and important institutions of its kind. The buildings were improved at different periods, but the last and splendid church, erected by the abbot and monks, was completed in the year 1095, and remained in a flourishing state until the dissolution of monastic houses.

This far-famed abbey was on a scale of transcendant magnificence, and its lofty walls enclosed three churches, besides that properly belonging to the institution. It has been computed that its revenues would, at the present time, be worth more than £200,000 *per annum*. The principal relic now left, to attest the former splendour of this establishment, is the *Abbey Gate*, which once formed the grand entrance to the monastery, and is still one of the most conspicuous ornaments of the town. This structure was erected shortly after the year 1327, and is richly embellished, in the best modification of the pointed style. The gate opens into the Abbey grounds, still surrounded with the ancient wall, and containing some massive detached fragments of the assemblage of costly edifices which once stood there in so gorgeous a cluster.

During the prosperity of the Abbey, this town contained three parochial churches; but one of these is now converted into the Town-hall.

The *Church of St. Mary* was commenced in 1424, and finished within the ensuing ten years. This is a spacious and handsome building, enriched with numerous monuments of considerable interest. The roof of the nave, which is said to have been constructed in France, and put together after its arrival in England, is much admired for its lightness and elegance.

The Church dedicated to *St. James* is a fine structure of freestone, in the last and florid modification of the pointed style. The present building was begun in the fifteenth century, but was not completed until the time of the sixth Edward. The west end is highly decorated, and is a fine and captivating elevation. At the distance of thirty feet from this building is an erection called the *Church-Gate*, which formerly acted as a magnificent portal to the Abbey-church. This structure is a beautiful, but decaying specimen of the Anglo-Norman style of architecture. Adjacent to the church-yard are some remains of the west end of the celebrated *Church* of *St. Edmund*, all its grandeur extinct, and its architectural beauties intermingled with modern dwellings.

The public dwellings of Bury, designed for civil purposes, are of a respectable character; and the

town is provided with a theatre, assembly rooms and a public library.

This place has produced many eminent natives, but chiefly such as are conspicuous for useful, though recondite writings, whilst learning was confined to the shade of monastic cloisters.

Clare, a market-town, formerly of considerable note, but now much reduced in consequence, was distinguished in ancient times for a Castle of great magnitude and splendour, and a Priory, the usual accompaniment of a dignified baronial seat. The former structure is believed to have been founded in an early Anglo-Saxon age, but was probably rebuilt shortly after the Norman conquest, by Richard Fitz-Gilbert, one of those hardy warriors who assisted in subduing the English at the battle of Hastings. Under the Norman sway Clare was constituted an *honour* (or seat of residence appertaining to the lord of several conjoined manors); and, in the long list of its possessors, occur the noble family of York, afterwards elevated to the throne. The vestiges of this once-celebrated castle are situated on the south side of the town; and, although they afford few architectural features, are distributed so widely as to convey forcible ideas of the former commanding character of the edifice.

The *Priory* of Clare was founded in the year 1248, by Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester,

from whom descended the royal house of York. The remains of the buildings are now converted into a private residence, but retain the name, and much of the character, of their original destination. In the church of this priory was buried, amongst numerous other persons whose names are familiar to the student of English history, Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son of King Edward III.

The *Parish Church* of Clare is an ancient and beautiful structure, worthy of the traveller's attentive investigation.

Bradfield Hall is entitled to notice, as the birth-place and residence of Arthur Young, whose exertions towards the improvement of agriculture have rendered his name well known, and venerable, amongst all classes of his countrymen. This ancient seat is situated on rising ground, and is enriched with some fine timber, and very extensive plantations, effected under the direction of the present scientific possessor. The farm on this estate was formerly the scene of a great variety of experiments, which have conduced in an eminent degree to the advancement of that useful art which has formed the object of Mr. Young's pursuits through a long and active life, and in which he persevered until rendered incapable of exertion by a total loss of sight.

Euston Hall, a seat of the Duke of Grafton, is a capacious but unornamented mansion, built of

red brick. The grounds are extremely fine, and constitute the chief attraction of this place. The contiguous scenery combines a delightful assemblage of rural objects, and will be viewed with additional interest, when it is remembered, that in these sequestered haunts Bloomfield acquired that familiarity with country manners, which enabled him to gratify the world with his poem entitled the Farmer's Boy.

FRAMLINGHAM, a town of high antiquity, is pleasantly situated on an eminence near the sources of the river Ore. The *Parochial Church*, a large and sumptuous structure, built of black flint, and surmounted with a steeple ninety six feet in height, was chiefly erected by the Mowbrays and Howards, Dukes of Norfolk. Amongst monuments to several members of the latter illustrious family, must be noticed the magnificent tomb of the Earl of Surrey, renowned for elegant accomplishments and poetical genius, who sank a martyr to the vindictive spirit of Henry the Eighth. The remains of this nobleman were at first interred in the Tower of London, but were removed hither in the reign of James the First.

The *Castle* of Framlingham is the most important feature in the topography of the town. The time at which this stately pile was founded is entirely unknown; but an ancient fortress on the site is noticed in several pages of the Anglo-Saxon annals.

In the reign of Henry the First the castle was granted by the crown to Roger Bigod, whose grandson was created Earl of Norfolk. By this nobleman it is believed that the chief parts of the structure were rebuilt. In its succeeding fortunes, the baronial edifice passed through several families, but constituted, for many ages, the principal seat of the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk. The remains of the structure chiefly consist of the outward walls, but present, in the slow progress of their decay, an impressive, and even majestic spectacle. The form of the castle approaches to that of a circle; and the massy walls of outline are flanked with thirteen square towers.

The town of WOODBRIDGE [197] is situated on the east side of a sandy hill, commanding a pleasant view down the river Deben, which falls into the sea at the distance of about ten miles. The inhabitants derive much benefit from this navigable river, and carry on an extensive trade with London, Hull, Newcastle, and the Continent. Here are also several docks for building vessels, with convenient wharfs and quays. The principal streets, although narrow, contain many well-built and commodious houses. The *Church* is of spacious proportions, and displays, in several parts, much architectural beauty. This fabric is supposed to have been built in the reign of Edward the Third. The outward walls are constructed (as is observable in many of

the churches in this county) of black flint. The quadrangular tower shewn in the annexed engraving is 180 feet in height, and forms a conspicuous object to mariners approaching the neighbouring coast.

RENDLESHAM HOUSE [198], the seat of Lord Rendlesham, was anciently vested in the Spencers, and was more recently the property and occasional residence of the Duke of Hamilton. In its original state this was a commodious mansion, more conspicuous for extent of proportions than elegance. Under the direction of the late Lord Rendlesham, great alterations were effected, in the style frequently termed modern-gothic. The interior is sumptuously fitted up, and is well adapted to the splendid hospitality exercised by the present lord of the domain. This mansion has been honoured with visits from several branches of the royal family.

The town of ALDBOROUGH, situated on the sea-coast, has experienced considerable vicissitudes of fortune. Not more than two centuries back this was a port of great traffic and affluence. But repeated encroachments of the sea gradually reduced it to the rank of a small and obscure fishing-town. Some idea respecting the extent of these encroachments may be conveyed, by our observing that the ocean has swept away, within the memory of persons now living, the market-place and cross, together with many domestic buildings. Exposed to such

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Butley Priory.

200

Blythburgh Church.

201

Mettingham Castle.

fearful casualties, the town appeared to be making a rapid progress towards depopulation, when the capricious hand of fashion was stretched forth to its relief, and has eventually imparted efficient succour. Several families of distinction, wishing for a greater degree of retirement than can be attained at the watering-places of usual resort, have lately fixed their summer residence at this place; and, under such propitious auspices, the aspect of the town is completely changed. The cabin of the fisher no longer forms the prevailing feature, but has given place to the marine villa, the tasteful cassino, and commodious mansion.

Independent of the treacherous nature of the soil, Aldborough assuredly possesses numerous attractions. The strand, to which the descent is remarkably easy, is not more than fifty yards from the principal lodging-houses, and is peculiarly adapted for bathing and pedestrian exercise, as the sand is very hard and firm. The bathing-machines are sufficient in number, and on the most approved principle. The marine and land prospects are likewise eminently fine, and are obtained to great advantage from a noble terrace on the summit of a hill which rises behind the town.

Butley Priory [199], about four miles west from the sea, and three from the town of *Orford*, was founded in 1171, for canons of the order of St. Augustine, by Ralph de Glanville, Justiciary

of England, who piously visited the Holy-land, and was present at the siege of Acre, in the time of the chivalrous King Richard the First. The buildings were at once capacious and magnificent, as is proved by the present extent and character of the walls and ruins, which comprise near twelve acres of ground. On the dissolution this monastic estate was granted to the Duke of Norfolk, and afterwards passed through the hands of various private persons, by one of whom (George Wright, Esq.) the *Gate-house* was converted into a handsome and eligible residence. The front of this surviving part of the structure is embellished with coats of arms, finely cut in stone; and between the interstices of the freestone are placed square black flints, which, by a contrast of colour, produce a lively and ornamental effect. South of the gate-house are the mouldering fragments of several parts of the conventual buildings, including those of the ancient chapel.

The town of SOUTHWOLD is pleasantly situated on an eminence overlooking the German Ocean, and is nearly surrounded on every other side by the river Blith, which here discharges itself into the sea. This is a place of considerable maritime trade, and received great advantage, about the middle of the last century, from an act for the improvement of its haven, under the sanction of which two piers were constructed. As the beach at

Southwold is well adapted for bathing, the town has, in late years, participated in the emoluments derived by numerous places on this coast from the fashionable and laudable custom of annual visits to the sea-side.

The *Parochial Church* is a noble fabric, having a tower about one hundred feet in height, composed of freestone, intermixed with flint of various colours. The whole of the exterior is richly decorated, and the internal parts afford many objects of antiquarian curiosity.

Southwold Bay, frequently termed *Sole Bay*, is celebrated as the scene of that obstinate and sanguinary naval engagement which took place in the year 1672, between the combined fleets of England and France, and a Dutch fleet of great strength. In the result the Dutch were compelled to retreat, but with the loss of only three ships of war; and the slaughter was nearly equal on both sides. It is believed that the victory would have been more decisive, if the French had not politically avoided taking their due share in the combat.

Benacre Hall, the spacious mansion of Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart. is of an unornamented character, but contains a noble suite of apartments, calculated for the exercise of hospitality on an extensive and elegant scale. This estate was pos-

sessed, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, by the ancient family of Dacres.

Blithburgh, now a village of little consideration, was, through several ages, the residence of opulent merchants, and enjoyed the advantage of a profitable fishery. The tide of prosperity has long since taken a different course, and little now remains for the notice of the topographer except ruinous, or neglected and mutilated buildings The *Church* [200], of which we present a view, appears to have been chiefly erected in the fifteenth century, and was originally a sumptuous building, in the best style of that period. But the most reprehensible freedoms have been taken with the structure, under the name of repairs. The rich tracery of the principal windows has, on the exterior, been removed, and its place supplied with unsightly masses of brick. The chasms of painted glass, in the same windows, have been also supplied with brick and mortar. Internally, the fine carved work has been covered with a coat of white-wash, and the highly-embellished roof is sinking in unheeded decay. Regret for such injuries, sustained by an edifice devoted to Christian worship, in a populous and thriving county, can scarcely be confined to the breast of the antiquary.

At a short distance from the church are some remains of a small priory of black canons. These

venerable ruins are overgrown with ivy, and are not destitute of picturesque effect. The time at which they were molested by human hands is passed, and nature spreads charms over the most minute work which sinks to decay under her silent operations.

The town of BUNGAY, situated on the navigable river Waveney, is of comparatively recent erection, the whole of the buildings, with the exception of one street, having been consumed by accidental fire in 1688. This town contains two churches. That dedicated to *St. Mary* is a capacious and beautiful fabric, having a steeple greatly admired for the symmetry of its proportions. At a short distance are some vestiges of a Benedictine nunnery, founded in the reign of Henry the Second.

The principal object of antiquarian curiosity in this commercial town consists in the ruins of a strong and spacious *Castle*, supposed to have been built by the Bigods, Earls of Norfolk. During the commotions which prevailed in the disastrous reign of Stephen, this fortress was so carefully fortified by Hugh Bigod that he was accustomed to boast of it as being impregnable. When that factious baron was in a situation of imminent danger, he is said to have expressed his confidence in the security afforded by this strong hold, in the following terms, intended to be poetical:—

"Were I in my castle of Bungay,
"Upon the water of Waveney,
"I would not set a button by the King of Cockney."

The fortress, once so potent that its owner believed he might safely defy the liege-lord of the land while protected by its bulwarks, is now sunk into utter insignificance. As if intended for a salutary lesson, respecting the mutability of human affairs, it is become the habitation of the most abject classes of society, numerous hovels having been raised against its walls, and let out in lodgings to the poor.

The *Market-place* of this town is considered to be nearly the handsomest in the county, and is provided with two crosses, the ancient appendages of local traffic.

The village of METTINGHAM [201], distant about one mile and a half from Bungay, is worthy of attention, on account of the ruins of a *Castle*, which appears to have been an edifice of much strength and splendour. This structure was erected by John de Norwich, in the reign of Edward the Third. The remains chiefly consist of a gate-house (represented in the annexed engraving) and some parts of the outward walls.

The town of LOWESTOFT occupies the most eastern point of the English coast, and is seated upon a lofty eminence which commands an extensive

view of the German Ocean. Viewed from the sea the groupe of buildings composing this town presents an object of unusual beauty. Seldom is the mariner cheared, on his approach to Britain, by a display more picturesque and attractive.

The buildings are ranged in one principal street on the summit of the cliff, the main thoroughfare being intersected by several smaller avenues. The adjacent declivitous tract is occupied as gardens, interspersed with ornamental alcoves and other summer retreats. At the bottom of the gardens a line of buildings, appropriated to the purpose of curing fish, extends the whole length of the town.

The *Parochial Church* is distant from the town about half a mile, towards the west. The principal entrance is by a handsome porch on the south side, the ceiling of which is ornamented with some curious sculpture. The whole of the building is well preserved, and the furniture is remarkably neat and appropriate. Several of the funeral memorials are interesting from antiquity, or the celebrity of the persons whom they are designed to commemorate.

The chief commerce of this town is derived from the herring-fishery, which is cultivated to great advantage, the herrings on this coast being supposed of a superior quality, and fetching a higher price than those obtained at any other place.

Lowestoft has produced several natives who attained eminence as naval commanders. Amongst these must be noticed Sir Thomas Allen, a distinguished admiral in the reign of Charles the Second, and Sir Andrew Leake, not less celebrated for his services in the time of Queen Anne.

SURREY.

This county possesses a great diversity of character; but, on a candid estimate, its beauties will be found to preponderate over its defects. In proportion to its extent, few of the southern districts of England possess so much heath and other uncultivated land. These unprofitable tracts are chiefly connected with a range of irregular hills, which extends throughout the central part of the county. A great part of the western border is, also, of a soil repulsive to the husbandman; and this division includes the dreary wilds of Bagshot. The waste land is believed to amount to one sixth part of the county.

On the other hand, the tracts under the operation of the agriculturalist are in general of an eligible description; and are, in some instances, unusually prolific. The margin of the Thames abounds in rich meadow; and the land round Godalming and Farnham is not excelled by that of any neighbouring county.

This inland district is separated on the north from Middlesex by the river Thames; on the west

it is bounded by Berkshire and Hampshire; on the south by Sussex; and on the east by Kent. Its extreme length is about thirty-eight miles, and its breadth twenty-six.

The surface of almost the whole of Surrey, except the Weald, consists in a pleasing alternation of hill and dale. In some parts the hills rise to a considerable height; and the interspersed valleys are almost invariably fertile and attractive. The pictorial examiner will find in this county unnumbered subjects of pastoral beauty; and, in many instances, will meet with views at once extensive, harmonious, and magnificent.

The principal rivers, besides the Thames, which only washes the northern border of Surrey, are the Wey, the Mole, and the Wandle.

This county is generally allowed to contain more numerous seats of gentry than any other English district of the same extent; a circumstance partly owing to its proximity to London, but in some measure to be ascribed to natural attractions, and reputation for salubrity of air. The north-eastern parts of Surrey are so intimately blended with that city, that they require notice in a work professing to describe the metropolis, rather than in pages so excursive as the present. We, therefore, rest contented, in regard to those thickly-populated parts, with observing that the borough of Southwark is commonly considered as the capital of this county,

but now acts as a suburb, or appendage, to the stupendous metropolis of the British empire.

GUILDFORD, the county town, is agreeably situated on the side of a steep and lofty hill, upon the east bank of the river Wey. The buildings are principally ranged in one long and wide street, and are in general capacious and ornamental. This is, indeed, uniformly allowed to be one of the handsomest inland towns in the kingdom.

The earliest historical notice of Guildford relates to the tenth century, at which time its name occurs in the will of the great Alfred. It is, however, supposed that a castle was constructed here during the heptarchy; and the building assuredly constituted a palace of several Anglo-Saxon kings. The fortress became unhappily distinguished, in the year 1036, as the theatre of a transaction unusually treacherous and sanguinary. Harold, surnamed Harefoot, having been seated on the throne by the intrigues of Godwin, Earl of Kent, in opposition to the sense of the people, Emma, widow of King Ethelred, conceived the design of procuring the crown for her son Alfred, or his brother Edward. For this purpose she sent for them from Normandy. One of these princes (Alfred) was met near Guildford by Earl Godwin, and conducted to the castle, with a shew of hospitable entertainment. At a convenient opportunity, however, he was seized,

and conveyed to Ely, where his eyes were put out, and he was consigned to perpetual confinement. His attendants were tortured with horrid cruelty, and not less than six hundred were put to death.

The keep of this strong fortress is still remaining, situated on an artificial mount, at a short distance from the High-street towards the south. It forms a quadrangle of forty-seven feet by forty-five and a half, and is seventy feet in height. In the walls are cavities which shew the remains of numerous apartments; and vestiges of the outworks are to be seen in several houses and gardens in the neighbouring parts of the town.

Subsequent to the Norman conquest many of our kings occasionally held their court in this town, and a large tract on the west side of the river was imparked by Henry the Second. This plot of land has been long under the operation of the plough, but is still known by the name of Park Farm.

Among the most ancient institutions of Guildford must be noticed the *Friary*, which was founded by Eleanor, consort of Henry the Third, for Dominicans, or preaching friars. The buildings were situated on the east bank of the river, a little to the north of the High-street. After the dissolution of monastic houses King Henry the Eighth built a mansion on the site of the friary, which was

granted to private hands by James the First, and was occupied as barracks during part of the late war.

On the north side of the High-street, near the centre of the town, is an *Hospital*, founded by George Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1619, for the maintenance of a master, twelve brethren, and eight sisters. This is a handsome edifice, composed of brick, and enclosing a quadrangular area of considerable extent. The entrance is by an ornamental gate-house, surmounted with four turrets. On the north side of the quadrangle is a small chapel, the north and east windows of which are adorned with painted glass of some interest.

The *Free Grammar-school*, a venerable fabric of brick and stone, stands near the entrance of the town, from London. This establishment was founded by King Edward the Sixth in the year 1550, and has produced many exemplary prelates and other distinguished characters.

The structures appropriated to civil business, and benevolent purposes, of public utility, are highly creditable to the liberality of the inhabitants.

The *Parochial Churches* are three in number. That dedicated to *St. Nicholas* is the most ancient, and affords some curious specimens of the progressive improvements effected in the pointed style of architecture. The church of *St. Mary* also evinces

considerable antiquity. The structure, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was re-edified, on the site of a decayed building, between the years 1749 and 1763. This is a commodious edifice of brick, and the interior is arranged in a plain but respectable manner.

Guildford has afforded a place of birth to the following eminent persons:—George Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury; Robert Abbot, Bishop of Salisbury, brother of the above-named primate; John Parkhurst, Bishop of Norwich; and John Russell, R. A. well known as a crayon-painter of distinguished talent.

On a hill, distant about one mile from Guildford, are the ruins of *St. Katharine's Chapel*, which constitute a beautiful object in the fine scenery adjacent to the town. The origin of this structure is unknown, but it was rebuilt in the reign of Edward the First. On an agreeable spot, at a short distance from the chapel, is the ancient residence of the Wright family. The present proprietor, Arthur Wright, Esq. is now serving with distinguished reputation as a military officer in the East Indies, and the manorial dwelling is occupied by the widow of the late John Wright, Esq.

At West Clandon, three miles from Guildford, is Clandon Place, the splendid seat of Earl Onslow. This building was erected by the second Lord Onslow, about the year 1731, after

the designs of Leoni. The principal apartments are arranged with great elegance, and contain some valuable pictures. The park is well wooded, and plentifully stocked with deer.

The town of GODALMING is situated on the south bank of the river Wey, and consists of one principal street, intersected by several avenues of less importance. The manufacture of cloth and kerseys was formerly cultivated at this place with great success, but has for several ages been progressively sinking into decay. In regard to traffic and respectability of buildings, this town is, indeed, much inferior to Guildford, its neighbour and rival. The church is a capacious structure, in the pointed style of architecture. In the churchyard is buried the Rev. Owen Manning, who was vicar of this parish more than thirty-seven years, and collected materials for the History of Surrey, arranged for the press and published, after his decease, by William Bray, Esq.

FARNHAM, a town of considerable trade, is distant from Guildford about ten miles, the intermediate road being formed on the summit of a lofty ridge termed *Guild-down*, the prospects from which are greatly celebrated for beauty, but can scarcely be commended beyond their real scale of desert. The vicinity of this town is famed for the growth of hops, of a quality superior to those produced in

most other parts of England. It is believed that the culture of this useful article was introduced to the neighbourhood of Farnham about the middle of the seventeenth century. More than 900 acres are now occupied as hop-grounds.

This town was of considerable importance in the ages shortly succeeding the Norman conquest, and a *Castle* was erected here by Henry de Blois, brother of King Stephen, and Bishop of Winchester. This fortress was destroyed by Henry the Third, but was speedily rebuilt, in a style of greater magnificence. During the civil wars of the seventeenth century, Farnham Castle was garrisoned for the King, but was reduced in the year 1642 by Sir William Waller, after a siege in which the buildings were greatly damaged. After the restoration Dr. Morley, Bishop of Winchester, expended £8000 in restoring part of this edifice; but, unfortunately, the reparations were conducted with little judgment, and the building in its present state is neither elegant nor commodious. It still constitutes one of the mansions of the Bishop of Winchester, and contains a fine library, together with some valuable paintings. Contiguous to the modern dwelling are some remains of the polygonal keep of the ancient castle.

The *Church* of Farnham is an extensive fabric, apparently erected in the latter part of the fifteenth

century. The windows are richly adorned with tracery, in the style of that period, and the interior contains several handsome monuments.

Moor Park, about two miles south-east of Farnham, was formerly the seat of Sir William Temple. His ardent attachment to this residence is curiously proved by his directing that his *heart* should be buried in a silver box, under the sun-dial in his garden, opposite to the window of his study. Swift resided at this place as secretary to Sir William Temple, and here contracted his intimacy with the unfortunate *Stella*. The house is a spacious edifice, partaking little of ornament, and surrounded by a park more conspicuous for romantic beauty than extent.

The town of Dorking is situated in a sandy vale, near the silent flow of the river Mole. The buildings are disposed in three streets, and the chief parts of the town possess a cleanly and inviting aspect. Little trade is here cultivated: but, in the absence of more important particulars, it may be incidentally remarked that the place is noted for the supply of poultry which it affords to the London markets. That peculiar breed termed the *Dorking fowl* is remarkable for possessing five claws, and is believed to have been introduced to this country by the Romans.

The Parochial Church is a substantial and com-

modious building, in the pointed style of several discordant periods.*

Dorking is surrounded by a beautiful concourse of hills, commanding views of such magnificence as not to be excelled by any inland county in the kingdom. These advantages of situation have been duly cultivated by persons of opulence and correct taste. Nearly the whole of the adjacent country is embellished with costly seats; and, in the majority of instances, the beauties of nature have been suffered to remain uninjured amidst the most expensive works of art.

Polesdon, on the north side of the parish of Great Bookham, was purchased of Sir William Geary, Bart. by the trustees of the late Right Hon. R. B. Sheridan; it afterwards became the property of his son by his second wife, who has recently sold it to *Joseph Bonsor*, Esq. The grounds contain upwards of 300 acres, and has a terrace walk 900 feet long. The mansion was taken down in the lifetime of Mr. Sheridan with the intention of erecting a more sumptuous edifice, but his protracted illness, and other cogent reasons, caused it to be abandoned. The present possessor, whose object is to farm the land, has built a neat, if not to say elegant, *Farm-house*, in which is combined every thing that is useful and convenient for the purpose.

A particular notice of these numerous modern villas would exceed our limits, and we conduct the reader to WOTTON HOUSE, which, since the time of Queen Elizabeth, has been the seat of a branch of the Evelyn family. Much of the ancient building still remains, and this venerable pile will be viewed with no ordinary interest as the birth-place of *John Evelyn*, the celebrated author of *Sylva*. The park, which formerly afforded so fertile a source of gratification to this excellent naturalist and amiable man, has been for many years consigned to the operations of the agriculturalist.

EGHAM, an extensive village, situated near the Thames, consists of one street, nearly a mile in length. The chief topographical interest of this place arises from the contiguous field termed *Runnymead*, which will ever be celebrated in the history of this country, as the spot where the assembled barons, in the year 1215, extorted from King John a grant of that charter of British liberties, emphatically denominated *Magna Charta*. The treaty is said to have been signed on an island in the Thames, now known by the name of *Charter Island*, and included in the parish of Wraysbury, Buckinghamshire.

To the west of Egham is COOPER'S HILL, rendered sacred in poetical esteem by the muse of *Denham*. Pope, in his poem entitled "Windsor "Forest," thus alludes to this romantic hill, and

the writer by whom its beauties were first celebrated:—

"Bear me, oh! bear me, to sequester'd scenes,
"To bowery mazes and surrounding greens;
"To Thames's bank, which fragrant breezes fill,
"Or where the Muses sport on Cooper's Hill.
"(On Cooper's Hill eternal wreaths shall grow,
"While lasts the mountain or while Thames shall flow)."

The town of CHERTSEY, situated on the banks of the Thames, appears to have attained some distinction during the reign of the early Anglo-Saxon kings, in consequence of an abbey, founded here for Benedictine monks, about the year 666, by Frithwold, Governor of Surrey. This religious institution attained great eminence in succeeding ages, and the abbot has been described as a "kind "of little prince hereabouts, whose lands were as "endless to enumerate as would be the possessors "who have held them since the dissolution." In the church belonging to this abbey, the body of King Henry the Sixth was first interred, without any funeral pomp; and it remained here until removed by Henry the Seventh to St. George's chapel, Windsor.

Of this once extensive edifice nothing is now left but some small fragments of walls. Subsequent to the dissolution a mansion was constructed on the site, which was taken down some few years back.

The Parochial Church, with the exception of the chancel, is a modern edifice, intended to imitate the pointed style of architecture. In the vicinity of the church is a handsome market-house, of recent construction. The bridge thrown over the Thames between Chertsey and Littleton is a noble fabric of Purbeck stone, completed in the year 1785. In a perambulation of this town the attention of the examiner must be directed to a mansion termed *the Porch House*, which formed the retirement of the poet Cowley. Part of the ancient structure has been carefully preserved, but considerable alterations in the buildings and grounds have been recently effected.

Distant about one mile from Chertsey, towards the west, is St. Anne's Hill, a fine elevation commanding a great variety of picturesque views. On the south side of this hill is the seat of the late eminent statesman, the Right Hon. Charles James Fox. The gardens and pleasure-grounds are disposed with much correctness of judgment, and the whole demesne appears well-suited to the elegant retirement of a studious character.

Richmond constitutes one of the most attractive spots in this county, whether it be viewed in regard to natural beauties or topographical interest. The charms of *Richmond Hill* have been often celebrated both in verse and prose. The prospects over the

Thames and its enriched borders, where art has vied with nature in bestowing decoration, are, indeed, almost unrivalled for exquisite softness and elegant animation. Owing to its local advantages Richmond has been selected as a place of residence by many distinguished families, and it may be safely asserted that no village in the kingdom contains so many ornamental mansions.

This place afforded a residence to our kings, from the time of Edward the First to that of James the Second, in whose reign the palace, which had fallen into decay, was taken down. The site is now occupied by several houses, amongst which is conspicuous a handsome mansion formerly the residence of the late Duke of Queensbury. The original *Park* is partly occupied as a farm, and the remainder constitutes a royal garden. The *New* or *Great Park*, which was made by Charles the First, is still well stocked with deer, and is a fine tract, eight miles in circumference, enclosed with a brick wall.

Richmond Bridge [202], an elegant structure, represented in the annexed engraving, was completed in the year 1777, at the expense of £26,000.

The church, or rather chapel of Richmond is not conspicuous for external beauty, but the interior is very neat, and contains some interesting monuments and inscriptions. The visitor will pause

with emotion and reverence over the spot rendered sacred to the ashes of Thomson, who sung "the "Seasons and their change."

KEW HOUSE occupies a flat situation on the bank of the Thames. This was for many years the residence of the Princess Dowager of Wales; and after her death became a favourite retreat of his present majesty. In this house the late queen breathed her last. The *New Palace* [203] of Kew was begun about the year 1802, and is situated within Richmond gardens, at a short distance from Kew Green towards the west. This structure is of the castellated form, and in its general character of architecture is *said* to be an imitation of the style which prevailed in the sixteenth century. The designs were furnished by the late Mr. James Wyatt; but the building seems doomed to remain in an incomplete state.

In the hamlet of EAST SHEEN is TEMPLE GROVE [204], celebrated as an occasional residence of the great Sir William Temple. It has been observed that here that eminent statesman "indulged his taste for horticultural pursuits, after "he had retired from the fatigue and disgust "which he had experienced in his different em-"bassies; and the noble trees that have escaped "the ravages of the axe, together with the beau-"tiful mount and fish-ponds that ornament the "estate, bear testimony, to this day, of the pains

" he bestowed on the improvement of his favourite
" residence. It was here, too, that he received
" the visits of the Prince of Orange, at the time
" of the Revolution; and one of the chambers
" facing the large pond, and looking at that time
" down the avenue of fine horse-chestnut trees,
" still retains the name of King William's bed-
" room."

A considerable part of the structure has been rebuilt, and the whole is now occupied as a school for young gentlemen, forming one of the most respectable establishments in this county.

OATLANDS, the seat of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, became a royal manor in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and was frequently visited by several succeeding sovereigns. The ancient mansion was chiefly destroyed in the civil wars of the seventeenth century; and the renovated structure was accidentally consumed by fire in the year 1793. The new building was erected after designs by the architect Holland, but is not conspicuous for symmetry of parts or elegance of general effect.

Near the small village of *Bagshot*, situated on the high western road, is BAGSHOT PARK, now the seat of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. The house is a spacious, but unornamented pile, surrounded by a park upwards of three miles in circumference.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES is situated on the east bank of the river from which it derives a portion of its name. This place was the theatre of several important councils in the time of the Anglo-Saxons; and many of our early kings were crowned here. During the civil wars of the seventeenth century the inhabitants of Kingston were distinguished for their attachment to the royal cause; and here the last struggle was made in behalf of the unfortunate Charles. The enterprise was, however, ill-concerted, and the royalists were speedily discomfited, with the loss of Lord Francis Villiers, one of their leaders, who died whilst fighting with conspicuous and memorable gallantry.

The domestic buildings of Kingston are in general mean and low. The inhabitants, however, are largely engaged in commercial pursuits, facilitated by their adjacency to the river Thames. The parochial church was originally cruciform, but has undergone so total a change by repairs as to have the appearance of a new building. An example of the character which prevailed in the ancient structure may still be seen in the south aisle of the chancel, and this part of the building appears to have been erected in the reign of Richard the Second.

WIMBLEDON HOUSE [205], the seat of Earl Spencer, occupies one of the finest situations in the vicinity of the metropolis, and is surrounded by a

park which comprises 1200 acres, and exhibits a beautiful variety of surface, judiciously planted and laid out under the direction of Brown. An ancient mansion, nearly on the site of the present edifice, was taken down by the Duchess of Marlborough, but the new building erected by her order was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1785. The re-edified seat was built from designs of Mr. Holland, and was finished in 1801. The noble proprietor has here reposited some part of his truly valuable collection of rare books, and other articles of literary curiosity.

The principal mansion in the vicinity of Esher is CLAREMONT. This seat, which has of late attained a melancholy, but very general, celebrity, derives its name from a former possessor, Thomas, *Earl of Clare*, afterwards Duke of Newcastle. By that nobleman the grounds were much enlarged and improved, under the direction of Mr. Kent. After the death of the duke, the estate was purchased by Lord Clive, who, when leaving England on his last voyage to the east, gave directions to Brown, the landscape-gardener and architect, to erect for him a mansion, without restraint as to cost. The building forms an oblong-square, and has, on the ground-floor, eight spacious rooms, besides the hall of entrance. In the principal front is a flight of steps, which leads to the great entrance, under a pediment supported by Corinthian columns. The park

is extensive, and is richly adorned with wood and water.

Claremont was selected as the country-seat of the late Princess Charlotte, and is still the residence of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. In the esteem of very remote posterity, this mansion will be viewed with veneration, on account of a tenant so illustrious; and when the building itself shall yield to the wear of years, and, in common with all other works of human hands, however stately, shall sink in ruin, and be utterly dispersed, the *site* must ever remain consecrated to sympathy and regret. It was here that her late Royal Highness passed the happiest days of her felicitous union. Alas! in the first tender epoch of connubial promise, it was here that this exalted female, the "Rose of England," and the brightest hope of her country, sank upon the pillow of death.

During the absence of Prince Leopold, in the year 1818, the principal rooms of Claremont, and the whole of the attached grounds, were submitted to the inspection of all creditable visitors. Every particular confirmed the public impression respecting the correct taste of the Princess. Each apartment is furnished with an elegant simplicity. Books, music, painting and sculpture, are plentifully introduced; but, even in these essentials of elegant life, a studious limitation of expense is observable. The paintings are chiefly portraits;

amongst which are conspicuous those of the aged king, her grandsire; her grandmother, the late Duchess of Brunswick; her amiable consort, Prince Leopold; and, as a companion to that well-placed picture, a full-length representation of her own fair form.

The pleasure-grounds possess great natural variety of feature, and have been disposed with captivating skill by the two eminent and successive landscape-gardeners, Kent and Brown. The favoured walks and rides of the princess are accurately pointed out. Whilst others trod the gay mall, and shone the transient meteors of the terrace, the Princess Charlotte was, in these recesses, contented with the society of her husband, and had quite enough of praise in his commendation, joined with that of her own heart. It will not be heard without emotion, that a small temple within the grounds, commenced under the direction of the lamented Princess, has been completed by her widowed consort, in the character of a cenotaphial mausoleum, and is designed to enshrine a bust of the illustrious deceased mistress of the domain. This building is situated on a spot that would appear to be devoted to melancholy: the cypress, the yew, and the larch, correct the gay foliage of surrounding forest-trees, and bestow upon the scene the pensive gloom of nature in her wintry season of penalty and privation.

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Croydon Church.

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Addington Place.

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New Palace, Kew.

CROYDON, a town of considerable antiquity, formed part of the possessions of the archbishops of Canterbury, previous to the Norman conquest; and the manor has been annexed to that see ever since. The manor-house, or palace, situated near the church, was for many centuries the occasional residence of the archbishops; but having become much out of repair, was disposed of by act of parliament in 1780, and the premises are now occupied as a manufactory for calico-printing, and a bleaching ground. In several parts of the grounds are scattered fragments of buildings, still acting as impressive memorials of past magnificence.

The *Parochial Church* [206] is a spacious and handsome structure, composed of stone and flint, having a lofty square tower, adorned with angular pinnacles. Many of the archbishops of Canterbury are buried in this church, and their monuments almost uniformly constitute objects of considerable curiosity. That of Archbishop Sheldon, who died in 1677, is a splendid erection, comprising a fine recumbent figure of the excellent prelate whom it commemorates.

Whitgift's Hospital, in the town of Croydon, was founded by Archbishop Whitgift, about the year 1596, for the maintenance of a warden, schoolmaster, and a number, not exceeding forty, of poor brethren and sisters. This is a substantial building, equally ornamental and useful to the

town. The *Town-Hall* is a commodious modern structure, erected after the designs of Mr. Cockerell.

ADDINGTON PLACE [207], distant from Croydon about three miles, has formed the summer residence of the archbishop of Canterbury since the decay of the palace noticed in our preceding article. This is a handsome building, erected shortly after the year 1772 by an alderman of London, and transferred to the see of Canterbury in 1807.

The village of CAMBERWELL is greatly adorned by GROVE HILL, formerly the residence of the late John Coakley Lettsom, M.D. This villa is approached by an avenue of lofty trees, nearly one mile in length, forming a gradual ascent. The attached gardens are enriched with a copious collection of exotics, and were preserved in excellent order by the late scientific owner of the domain. Amongst the numerous embellishments of these grounds, a fountain and cottage [208], on the border of a spacious reservoir, have been particularly admired. The cottage is supported by the trunks of oak trees, entwined with climbing evergreens. The fountain is supplied by pipes, from an ample spring issuing from the summit of the hill, and memorable for bestowing a name on this extensive parish. It must be remarked, that the neighbourhood of the spot on which this spring

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Fountain Cottage.

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Temple Grove.

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Wimbledon House.

rises is traditionally said to have been the scene of a lamentable murder committed by *George Barnwell;* an incident which gave rise to the well-known tragedy by Lillo.

Dulwich, an agreeable hamlet in the above parish, possesses an air of tranquillity almost amounting to a pensive character, and quite an unusual feature with villages so near the metropolis. Here is a *College,* founded by *Edward Alleyne,* an actor of considerable celebrity, and contemporary with Shakspeare. This institution is termed *God's Gift College,* and is designed for the maintenance of a certain number of poor persons of both sexes, and the education of twelve children. The building consists of a front and two wings, which form three sides of a quadrangle. In the west wing is a picture gallery, containing some curious ancient portraits of theatrical and other public characters. The paintings at this place have lately received a valuable addition, in a collection of works by the best ancient and modern masters, bequeathed to the College by Sir Francis Bourgeois. The gallery containing this fine collection of pictures is open to the public, on an application for tickets at certain specified places.

SUSSEX.

This county, which ranges along the southern coast of Britain, is bounded on the north by Surrey; on the west by Hampshire; on the south by the English Channel; and on the east and north-east by Kent. The extreme length is about seventy-six miles; the medium breadth is rather less than twenty. The sea-coast is in general rocky, and lined with sand-banks, but has lately become in a peculiar manner the resort of rank, fashion, and opulence.

Sussex in several parts partakes of the character of Surrey, its hills and valleys presenting the same variety of picturesque situations. But this is far from being its uniform character. The northern and middle divisions resemble the Weald of Kent, and are chiefly overspread with timber, of so excellent a quality, that the navy-contractors stipulate for Sussex oak in preference to every other kind. The South Downs constitute a range of green open hills, celebrated for a breed of sheep, deriving a name from the pastures on which they

SURREY.

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Richmond Bridge.

SUSSEX.

209

Chichester.

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Arundel Castle.

are bred. Towards the sea the land is frequently flat and marshy.

This county affords several mineralogical productions, the chief of which are iron-stone, and lime-stone. Of the latter article one sort, formed of a concretion of shells, is well known to architects under the name of Sussex marble, and is frequently to be seen in the ornamental parts of ancient ecclesiastical buildings.

The rivers of Sussex are in general streams of little importance, and are named the Arun, the Adur, the Ouse, the Rother, and the Lavant.

The CITY of CHICHESTER [209] is seated on a gentle eminence, surrounded on all sides, except the north, by the small river Lavant. The buildings are chiefly ranged in four spacious and well-paved streets, which meet in one common centre. Each of these was formerly closed by a gate, now taken down, and the whole city is still surrounded by a stone wall.

This is a place of great antiquity, having been occupied as a British settlement previous to the arrival of the Romans. That it was a station of some consequence under the sway of the latter people, is proved by the frequent discovery of inscriptions, coins, and other unequivocal remains. Cissa, king of the South Saxons, made this his royal residence; but, after the union of the petty Anglo-Saxon states, the city appears to have de-

clined, partly through the injuries it sustained during various incursive ravages of the Danes. The interests of the place, however, received an unexpected advantage in the time of William the Conqueror, by the removal hither of the episcopal see, which had been established at Selsey throughout the three previous centuries. Since that period, the annals of the city do not present any event of public interest, with the exception of a siege in the civil wars under Charles the First. The place was garrisoned for the king in the year 1643, but was surrendered to the parliament army after a siege which lasted twelve days.

The *Cathedral* constitutes the chief architectural ornament of Chichester. This building was erected early in the eleventh century, but has experienced alterations so numerous, as nearly to amount to a re-edification. Externally this fabric evinces a variety of styles, in which the Norman is scarcely at all apparent. The central tower is surmounted with a spire, 297 feet in height, supposed to have been erected about the middle of the thirteenth century, and traditionally said to have been constructed by the workmen who raised the spire at Salisbury. The great west window is sumptuously adorned with tracery, and was inserted early in the fourteenth century.

The interior presents numerous circular arches, sustained by massy piers, and other unquestionable

vestiges of Anglo-Norman architecture. The nave is remarkable for having the appearance of a double aisle on each side; but the additional aisles are of later construction than the body of the fabric, and were evidently divided into many chantries and chapels. They still exhibit piscinæ, and various traces of altars.

In the south transept is a curious series of paintings, executed by Bernardi, an Italian artist, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, which are highly valuable, from conveying information respecting the ecclesiastical and lay costume of that age. The west entrance to the choir is allowed to present the finest part of the internal arrangement, and is worthy of deliberate inspection from the architectural antiquary. The choir retains considerable traces of the ancient structure, but is richly fitted up in the light and graceful mode of more recent ages. The stalls, erected in the time of Henry the Eighth, are of oak, curiously carved and gilt, with the names of the respective dignities inscribed over them in ancient characters. The high altar screen is terminated by a gallery, in which musicians were formerly placed, at the celebration of high mass.

At the eastern extremity of the Cathedral is the *Lady Chapel*, now occupied as a library.

On the south side is a spacious, but irregular cloister, appearing to have been erected in the

fourteenth century. In this appendage to the Cathedral are interred the remains of William Chillingworth, one of the most celebrated divines of the seventeenth century.

Near the north gate are some vestiges of a *Friary*, of uncertain origin. The Chapel is now used as a Guildhall.

In the central part of the city, at the intersection of the four principal streets, is a *Cross*, erected in the reign of Edward the Fourth. This is an octangular structure, generally acknowledged to be one of the most elegant buildings of the kind existing in England.

Amongst numerous benevolent institutions in Chichester, that termed *St. Mary's Hospital* holds a distinguished place, and is connected with an edifice of some antiquarian interest. The buildings appear to have formerly appertained to a Nunnery, and were erected, nearly in their present form, early in the fifteenth century. The Chapel is a structure of considerable beauty. The *Dispensary* for the relief of the sick poor is a useful establishment, founded in 1784.

The Theatre, Assembly-rooms, and other places of recreation, are suited to the respectability of the city.

Several distinguished persons have been born at this place. We select for notice William Juxon, Bishop of London, who attended to the scaffold his

ill-fated master, Charles the First; and William Collins, the celebrated author of the Ode on the "Passions," and other poetical works of sterling merit.

In the immediate vicinity of the town of *Midhurst* are the picturesque ruins of COWDRAY HOUSE, once the magnificent seat of the Montague family. This building was originally in the form of a quadrangle, having in the principal front a noble gateway, flanked by two towers. The interior was arranged in the most sumptuous style of that age in which the fortified castle was first abandoned by the English nobility, for domestic buildings of a less harsh and more hospitable character. This fine edifice, with most of its valuable contents, was destroyed by accidental fire in 1793; but the ruins still exhibit curious traces of ancient disposal, worthy of minute examination.

GOODWOOD, a seat of the Duke of Richmond, is agreeably situated in a spacious park, and ranks amongst the finest mansions of this county. The present structure was partly erected early in the last century, but considerable additions were commenced, some few years back, under the direction of the late Mr. Wyatt. The ornamental parts of this building are in the Doric and Ionic orders, and the chief apartments are of magnificent proportions.

The town of ARUNDEL, situated on the declivity of a commanding hill, upon the banks of the river Arun, consists of two principal streets, which contain many respectable domestic buildings. The chief ornament, and great attraction of this place, consists in its CASTLE [210], the splendid residence of the Duke of Norfolk.

On the site of Arundel Castle there stood a fortress, of great fame and strength, in the time of the Anglo-Saxons. Soon after the Conquest, the structure was probably rebuilt by the Norman Earls of Arundel; and it was a place of high consideration in the reign of Stephen, at which time its massy walls afforded a shelter to the Empress Maud. In the reign of Elizabeth the estate was obtained, through marriage, by Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk; and has ever since remained in the possession of his illustrious descendants.

During the civil wars of the seventeenth century this castle was twice captured, with unexpected ease. To the royalists it submitted on the first summons; and was afterwards resigned to their adversaries, with almost equal readiness. From that period the castle remained nearly in a state of ruin, until the late Duke of Norfolk undertook to restore it to its ancient magnificence. In effecting this renovation, his Grace demolished a considerable portion of the ancient structure, and has rendered

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Shoreham Church.

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Hastings.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

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Hagley Park.

every remaining part subservient to a new and elegant plan, productive of much of the picturesque of architecture, although perhaps deficient in strict *antiquarian keeping*. The interior comprises many stately apartments and galleries, furnished in a sumptuous manner, and extremely curious, from the perpetual allusions which they afford to ancient baronial magnificence. Many of the windows are adorned with painted glass, executed in all the perfection of modern skill, by the most distinguished artists.

Of the ancient edifice, the principal parts remaining are some of the walls, and the keep, a circular tower of massive stone, ascended by a stairway, now in the last stage of decay. The surrounding park is very extensive, and embraces a great variety of picturesque situations and scenery.

The *Parochial Church* is a handsome structure, of the cruciform character, and formerly belonged to a priory of Benedictines, believed to have been founded soon after the Conquest. This building contains numerous monuments, and brasses, of considerable antiquity. Amongst the persons thus commemorated are several of the Earls of Arundel, and different members of the Howard family.

New Shoreham [211] has risen to prosperity from the decay of a contiguous town, once of some importance, known by the name of *Old Shoreham*, and now reduced to an inconsiderable village.

That forsaken town is, however, an object of some curiosity, on account of its church, which displays many relics of Anglo-Norman architecture, now sinking in unheeded ruin.

The town of New Shoreham, although more estimable as a place of residence, has little to gratify the topographer, with the exception of its *Church*, which is a spacious edifice, in that inelegant, but curious mode of design, which combines the leading features of two dissimilar styles, and presents in the same elevation the circular and the pointed arch. This fabric was formerly collegiate, and is built in the form of a cross. The tower and east front are worthy of careful investigation; and the whole building affords an excellent school for the study of our ancient ecclesiastical architecture.

The principal business carried on at Shoreham is ship-building, with its dependant branches. The harbour, although subject to some inconveniencies, is the best on this part of the coast, and is frequented by vessels of considerable burthen.

Brighthelmstone, almost generally termed *Brighton*, is a memorable instance of the fluctuating character of local repute and prosperity. Little more than half a century back this was a small and obscure village, situated on a part of the coast but little frequented. About the middle of the last century, the professional skill of a physician, resident at Brighton, induced several persons

of distinction to resort thither, for the purpose of profiting by his advice whilst under a course of sea-bathing; and the proximity of the town to the metropolis, rendered it a place of desirable summer retreat, when its name and advantages became known to the public. From that time it has been gradually advancing in celebrity; and, aided by the favour and occasional residence of the Prince Regent, has become the most fashionable watering-place in the British empire.

This town partly stands on a declivity, which gradually slopes towards the promenade termed the Steyne; but the ground again rises with a moderate ascent, and affords an agreeable inequality to other divisions. Many of the modern buildings are on an elegant, as well as commodious scale; but the common material used is flint-stone, with the addition of brick-work round the doors and windows.

Brighton, including the recent additions, is of a quadrangular form, divided from north to south by the Steyne and its continuations, termed the Parade and the New Steyne. The town is protected from the winds of the north by a range of hills, which command views extending to the Isle of Wight, and over the Weald of Sussex. The buildings termed the Royal Crescent, consist entirely of lodging-houses, and constitute one of the principal ornaments of this place. In the middle of the en-

closed area, in front of the Crescent, is a statue of the Prince Regent, not more appropriate in regard to situation, than conspicuous for badness of execution.

The *Marine Pavilion*, forming the summer residence of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, is situated at an angle of the fashionable promenade denominated the Steyne, an agreeable lawn dividing the old from the modern town, and open on the south towards the ocean. This superb residence was commenced in the year 1784, but is more admirable for internal splendour of accommodation than in an architectural point of view. It is to be regretted that, considering the large sums expended on the edifice, it does not present a more estimable model of the marine villa of a dignified class. The sea-front consists of a circular building, with a lofty dome, raised on pillars, and a range of apartments on each side. Two wings, added to the first design, complete this principal façade.

The interior arrangements are suited, in costly magnificence of display, to the exalted rank of the owner. No peculiarities of architectural elegance, however, are evinced; and we must leave to more minute writers a description of furniture and decorations in the Chinese and Egyptian styles. The excellent taste of his Royal Highness in such circumstances of embellishment is well known, and is here displayed to the utmost possible advantage.

The *Stables* appertaining to this Royal residence form an important object of curiosity in the esteem of most visitors. They are in the Moorish style of architecture, and are unquestionably the noblest in this country The riding-house is 200 feet in length, and 60 in breadth. Opposite is a spacious Tennis-court; and an open gallery surrounds the area of this combination of equestrian and gymnastic structures, affording a view of the whole.

A discussion respecting antiquities would be somewhat misplaced in the notice of so gay a town, where the existing moment would appear to be the chief object of consideration. We will, however, claim permission to remark, that the *Church*, which stands at a small distance from the town, towards the north-west, is scarcely older than the time of Henry the Seventh. The font, which is adorned with basso-relievos, has been mentioned as a relic of the Anglo-Saxon, or Norman ages; but more careful antiquaries have suggested the probability of it really having been manufactured in the eighteenth century, in imitation of some genuine vestige of times so remote.

The *Chapel Royal*, an auxiliary structure for the exercise of the established religion, was erected in 1793, and will accommodate a congregation of 1000 persons.

Pevensey, a decayed town on the sea-coast, was one of the ports ravaged by Godwin, Earl of

Kent, in the time of Edward the Confessor, and is also celebrated in history as the place where William Duke of Normandy soon afterwards landed with his invading army. The former importance of this place is still denoted by the ruins of an extensive and potent castle, which appears to have been constructed in a Norman age, partly from the materials of a very ancient fabric. Worked into the massy walls are plainly to be distinguished great numbers of Roman bricks.

Andrew Borde, a native of Pevensey, was physician to Henry the Eighth, and was of so facetious and eccentric a disposition, that itinerant venders of nostrums are said to derive from him their appellation of *Merry Andrews*.

Bayham Abbey, the seat of Marquis Camden, is built on the demesne formerly appertaining to an institution of regular Canons of the Premonstratensian order. The remains of the monastic buildings are still considerable, and consist of the gateway, the nave of the church, and portions of the refectory and cloister. The modern dwelling is composed of materials collected from different parts of the ruined fabric, and is a building of moderate dimensions, in the style frequently termed Gothic. It has been remarked that this structure, "being placed "too near the ancient buildings, has neither the "advantage of a good view of them, nor itself "contributes to the beauty and character of the

"scene." It must be noticed, as a feature of much curiosity, if not of any prominent interest, that Mr. Pratt, grandson of the Lord Chief Justice, by whom this mansion was erected, laid out the interior of the unroofed church and the cloister as a pleasure-garden, with flowers and gravel walks.

ERIDGE CASTLE, the fine seat of the Earl of Abergavenny, is situated in the parish of *Frant*, a romantic neighbourhood, distant about two miles from Tunbridge Wells. An ancient mansion at this place was possessed for many ages by the Neville family, and considerable remains of that venerable building are worked into the present edifice. This structure, in its existing state, was chiefly re-edified, a few years back, by the present Earl, and is in the castellated style, embattled, and flanked with round towers. In the spacious and well-wooded park are extensive vestiges of military earth-works, usually ascribed to the Saxons and Danes.

The town of HASTINGS [212], situated in a fine valley which descends towards the sea in a gentle slope, principally consists of two parallel streets, which are separated by a small stream, called the *Bourne*. This place was of distinguished importance in the time of the Anglo-Saxons, and held the first rank amongst the original *Cinque Ports*. In the eleventh century, the vicinity of Hastings acquired

a lasting historical renown, as the theatre of that decisive battle which placed the crown of England on the head of William Duke of Normandy. This town once enjoyed a good harbour; but in the reign of Elizabeth the pier was destroyed by a violent tempest, and has not been replaced. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in the fisheries on this coast, in boat-building, and other branches of marine avocation. The real beauties of the situation have induced many families of the highest respectability to select this town as a summer residence. The sea-views are unusually grand, and the shore has such a gentle ascent, that the advantage of immersion may be enjoyed at any time of the tide.

The picturesque scenery of this neighbourhood acquires one of its boldest and most interesting features from the ruins of a *Castle*, which are situated on a lofty cliff westward of the town. It is generally believed that a fortress occupied this site in the earliest periods of British history; and it has been said that a fortified structure was subsequently erected by a leader of the invading Danes, named Hastings. Shortly after the date of the conquest, the castle was evidently a fabric of considerable extent and dignity, as the principal bishops and nobles were here assembled by royal authority, in the year 1090, to pay homage to King William the Second, before his departure to Normandy. The

building appears to have been chiefly re-edified in succeeding ages, but the walls are at present far from being entire in any direction.

At a short distance from the cliff, enriched with these ponderous fragments of castellated magnificence, are some few decaying remains of a *Priory of black canons*, founded in the reign of Richard the First. This town contains two churches, both which are structures of considerable antiquity.

The town of BATTLE, distant from Hastings about eight miles, towards the interior of the country, chiefly depends for interest on its neighbouring *Abbey*, which was founded by William the Conqueror, as a monument of pious gratitude, in which constant praise might be rendered for his victory, and prayers offered up for the souls of the slain. This building is extremely curious, in historical and topographical points of view, as it accurately denotes the spot on which the battle was fought. That part of the field on which the contest raged most fiercely, was chosen for the site of the edifice, the high altar standing either on the place where the dead body of Harold was found, or where his standard was captured.

On the dissolution of monasteries the Abbey of Battle was granted to lay hands, and the principal remains of the structure have been since converted into a fine mansion, now the property and residence of Sir Godfrey Webster, Bart. The traces

of the monastic pile and its dependancies prove the former magnitude of the establishment, as the circuit of the ruins is thought to be scarcely less than a mile. From the architectural character of these relics it is evident that the abbey had been entirely rebuilt, in the pointed style of different ages. It may not be undesirable to explain the character of the surrounding scenery, as it presents the soil on which some of the noblest blood of Britain was shed in the most memorable battle ever fought upon English ground. The abbey stands on a gentle rise, with a beautiful concave sweep before it of meadows and woods, confined by woody hills, which form a valley winding towards Hastings, where it meets the sea.

The *Church* of Battle is a handsome edifice, adorned with much painted glass, and containing a curious monument to Sir Anthony Browne, standard-bearer to Henry the Eighth.

Bodiham Castle, at a small distance from the village of the same name, on the north-eastern border of the county, is supposed to have been erected by one of the Dalyngriges, a family of great consequence in Sussex in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. This is a noble structure, displaying the most picturesque style of castellation. The building is encompassed on every side by a broad and deep moat. At the angles are round towers of great strength; and there are square towers, of

fine proportions, in the centre of the east and west sides. The chief gate of entrance is extremely grand, and is flanked by two square machicolated towers. The chapel, the hall, and the kitchen, of large dimensions, may still be traced amongst these truly splendid ruins.

WARWICKSHIRE.

The county of Warwick is situated near the centre of England, having Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire on the south-east. On the north-east it is bounded by Leicestershire, and by Staffordshire on the north-west. In other directions it is contiguous to the counties of Worcester and Gloucester. Its extreme length is estimated at about fifty-one miles, and its greatest breadth at thirty-six miles. This is a fine district, rich in numerous woods, and watered by several streams, of which the Avon (termed the upper, or Warwickshire, Avon) is the principal. In general aspect this county is agreeably varied by hills and valleys, the former being of a gentle, rather than a bold, description; and the lowlands seldom presenting an unpleasing flatness for any long extent. Warwickshire is important, in a commercial point of view, on account of the manufactures cultivated at Birmingham, Coventry, and other places. In the annals of genius it is distinguished as being that part of the island in which Shakspeare was born,

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Part of Warwick.

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Warwick Castle.

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Warwick Castle.

whose incomparable dramatic writings reflect increasing lustre upon his country.

WARWICK [213], the county-town, is distant from London ninety-two miles. This is a well-built and pleasing town, adorned with several public and private structures, of an interesting character. Warwick was first rendered famous as the residence of Ethelfreda, the excellent and celebrated daughter of King Alfred the Great. From the time at which it was selected as an abode by that lady, it continued to increase in buildings, and to rise in power, for many centuries, chiefly through the patronage of the Earls of Warwick, so greatly renowned in martial ages. Here are two churches. That dedicated to St. Nicholas is a small but respectable stone building; the church of St. Mary contains some beautiful parts, but was principally rebuilt, with little elegance, in the early part of the eighteenth century. Attached to this latter structure is a very magnificent chapel, usually termed the *Beauchamp Chapel*, which was erected as a place of burial for Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and other persons of his family, in the reigns of Henry the Sixth and Edward the Fourth. The county-hall is a spacious and ornamental edifice. This town suffered severely from fire in the year 1694, at which time nearly the whole of the buildings in the High-street were reduced to ashes.

WARWICK CASTLE [214, 215], the great ornament of this place, is the seat of the Earl of Warwick, and is situated in the immediate vicinity of the town. It was on this spot that the Lady Ethelfreda built a fortified dwelling, before the conquest of this country by the Normans. The present edifice was raised, in different early ages, by the powerful Earls of Warwick; several of whom are distinguished in our national history. This grand baronial mansion is built upon a rock, on the border of the river Avon. Its embattled towers still display the ancient modes of fortification, and rise above all neighbouring buildings in stern and commanding dignity. The interior, however, has experienced desirable alterations in ages less rude and warlike; and this is unquestionably one of the most convenient, as well as most splendid, ancient castles inhabited at the present day. The furniture is truly superb; and the paintings (which are the principal objects of attraction) are very numerous, and, in many instances, are works of the most eminent masters. This castle has been several times besieged, but was never captured by outward and direct assault. The last attack which it experienced was in 1642, when the civil war raged between King Charles and the Parliament.

GUY'S CLIFF [216], the seat of Bertie Greatheed, Esq. is about one mile and a half from Warwick, and occupies a beautiful situation on a rock,

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Kenilworth Castle.

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Stratford upon Avon.

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Guy's Cliff.

or cliff, watered by the river Avon. In this residence are contained many pleasing pictures, executed by the late son of Mr. Greatheed, a youthful gentleman of great promise, whose short but exemplary life terminated abroad, while he was prosecuting the study of his favourite art. Attached to the house is a chapel, now disused, founded in the reign of Henry the Sixth. There is, also, a rude statue of Guy, Earl of Warwick, cut in the solid rock. This Guy is said, in some ancient stories, to have been a renowned warrior, who conquered a giant, and afterwards retired to this spot and lived in a cave. But the history is evidently no better than a fable, and unworthy of our attention.

The majestic and solemn ruins of KENILWORTH CASTLE [217] are not far distant from Warwick, and present a most impressive spectacle. This castle, which was once of prodigious strength, was first built by Geoffrey de Clinton, in the reign of Henry the First; but was greatly altered and enlarged in succeeding ages. It underwent a memorable siege in the time of Henry the Third, at which period the king and a numerous army lay before the fortress for six months, before they could compel the garrison to surrender. In subsequent reigns this castle was the scene of much royal and noble festivity, particularly in the year 1575, when Queen Elizabeth was entertained with-

in its walls by the Earl of Leicester. The festivities lasted seventeen days, and excelled in splendour all that had been before witnessed. The pageants represented for the amusement of the queen were of the most costly description; and, as a proof of the hospitality which prevailed, it may be sufficient to say that the motion of the great clock was stopped, and the hands of the dial were fixed constantly at two, the hour of feasting! A picturesque and decaying assemblage of ruins is now all that remains of this once proud and gay structure! Its fall, however, was not owing to the ravages of open warfare. Oliver Cromwell granted the building (which had belonged to the king) to certain officers of his army, and they reduced it to a state of ruin, for the purpose of selling the materials of which it was composed.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON [218] is an ancient market-town, situated, as its name implies, on the "gentle" river Avon. This place contains several cleanly streets, and is of a cheerful, although not of a busy, aspect. The church is a spacious, venerable, and handsome structure. At Stratford was born, in the year 1564, WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE, author of thirty-two dramatic pieces, which rank among the most exalted productions of natural talent in any age or country, and contain many noble lessons of wisdom and morality.

"Here Shakspeare, Fancy's sweetest child,
"Warbled his native wood-notes wild!"

The house in which this immortal poet was born is still standing. At the time of his birth it was occupied as the warehouse of a wool-stapler, his father following that trade. It is now divided into two habitations, one being used as an inn, and the other as a butcher's shop. Shakspeare was buried in the church of his native town; and a bust, presenting, as is believed, a good resemblance of him, is placed on his monument. A great jubilee, or festival, in honour of this poet, was celebrated at Stratford, in 1769, under the direction of the celebrated David Garrick.

At the distance of four miles from the above town is CHARLECOTE, the seat of the Rev. John Lucy, a descendant of the weak and petulant Sir Thomas Lucy, whom Shakspeare has held up to ridicule, in one of his plays, under the character of Justice Shallow. This is a fine and venerable mansion, and is the same which was standing in the time of the poet. It is commonly said that Shakspeare, in the days of his youth, was guilty of the very blamable error of joining with some other young men in driving deer from a park in this neighbourhood; for which offence he was rigorously punished by Sir Thomas Lucy, who, according to the poetical portrait which Shakspeare has drawn, was a *shallow* as well as a severe judge.

Compton Wynyate is an ancient and interesting seat, near the eastern border of the county. This is an extensive residence, formerly encompassed by a moat, and contains a fine chapel, and many large apartments, fitted-up in the stately manner of the old taste. This mansion was long possessed by the noble family of Compton, Earls of Northampton. Spencer Compton, second earl, was a faithful adherent to King Charles the First, and lost his life in the service of that unfortunate monarch. Henry, his youngest son, was bishop of London, and held the honourable office of tutor to the princesses Mary and Anne, each of whom was afterwards Queen of England. The firm support which those queens lent to the protestant form of religion, is greatly to be ascribed to the care and good advice of their preceptor.

Ragley Hall, a residence of the Marquis of Hertford, is distant about two miles from the town of Alcester. This splendid mansion was built about the year 1760, but has been greatly enlarged and improved within the last ten years. The hall of entrance is extremely grand, and many of the state-apartments contain excellent pictures.

The ancient city of Coventry [219], and some few villages in its neighbourhood, do really form a separate county in themselves, although uniformly described as parts of Warwickshire. This city consists, in general, of very ancient domestic build-

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Combe Abbey.

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Rugby School.

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Loxley Hall.

ings, many being as old as the fifteenth century. The streets are narrow, and the whole city presents rather a gloomy, but still an interesting, picture of the character of all English towns before the improvements introduced in late times. Several of the public edifices demand admiration; particularly the church of *St. Michael*, famous for one of the most beautiful spires in Europe; and the building called *St. Mary's Hall*, which is a noble old structure, used by the corporation on state-days, and for purposes of civic festivity. Coventry was formerly so much favoured by the kings of England, that it was sometimes styled *the chamber of princes*. It was often visited, and much patronised, by King Henry the Sixth, and his brave but unsuccessful queen, the celebrated Margaret. A ridiculous story, concerning the Countess Godiva, was formerly narrated by the historians of this town, but is now known to be fabulous. The memory of Godiva is, however, preserved in what is termed the Show-fair, at which time a female rides through the city, very lightly dressed, to personate the countess. Coventry is distinguished for the manufacture of watches and ribbons.

Combe Abbey [220], a noble mansion near Coventry, is the seat of the Earl of Craven. The name of the place implies a low and hollow plot of ground. Such is, accordingly, found to be the situation of this building, which was originally a

religious house for monks of the Cistertian order, founded in the reign of King Stephen. The present structure comprises many remains of the monastery, enlarged and improved by Lord Harrington, in the reign of James the First. A very curious collection of paintings adorns the numerous and spacious apartments of this seat. Many of these are portraits of the royal family of the Stuarts, and were bequeathed to a former Lord Craven, by Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, daughter of King James the First, who is believed to have married that lord after the decease of her consort.

The town of RUGBY [221], thirteen miles from Coventry, is celebrated for its school, which was founded, for the purpose of free education, by Lawrence Sheriff, a trader of London, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The lands which Mr. Sheriff bequeathed for the support of this establishment have so greatly increased in value, that they now produce several thousand pounds annually. A very splendid new school-house, resembling a collegiate structure, has been lately erected; and this institution now takes rank amongst the first public schools in the kingdom.

At the distance of one mile and a half from Rugby is BILTON, a village of considerable attraction, as it formerly afforded a residence to ADDISON, whose various writings greatly assisted in

improving the morals and manners of this nation. The house in which Mr. Addison occasionally lived is a respectable country-seat; and it will be heard with pleasure, that the pictures and furniture remain to this day nearly in the same state as when he inhabited the mansion. Among the paintings, are portraits of Mr. Addison; of his lady, the Countess of Warwick; and their daughter, Miss Addison. This last-mentioned lady survived till the year 1797, and died at this place. It is with concern we observe that she was unhappily afflicted with mental derangement.

Birmingham, distant about 110 miles from London, is a large and populous town, highly worthy of the traveller's inspection and the writer's notice. This place is of great national importance, on account of the manufactures of hard-ware, guns, brass, and other articles, which are here cultivated to a great extent. The chief part of the town has been built in periods comparatively recent, and most of the streets are, therefore, of a desirable width. The houses are almost entirely occupied by persons connected with trade; but many are spacious and handsome. The churches, and other places of public worship, are numerous, but are not in any instance curious on account of antiquity, or remarkable for beauty. The General Hospital, and several other charitable fabrics, are, however, equally capacious and ornamental. This populous

and busy town suffered severely by riots, in the year 1791.

There are many handsome villas in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, but not any that require particular attention, except ASTON HALL, which is distant about two miles from the town, and is the residence of Heneage Legge, Esq. This venerable seat was plundered several times during the civil war in the time of Charles the First; and the marks of a cannon-ball, fired by Cromwell's party, are still shewn on one of the staircases.

POOLEY HALL [222], the seat of Colonel Finch, is distant four miles from the town of Tamworth. This estate was formerly vested in the Marmions of Tamworth Castle, but passed to the family of Cokain in the latter part of the fourteenth century. The present mansion was erected by Sir Thomas Cokain in the time of Henry the Eighth, and is a fine, but irregular building, varying in character between the embattled style of the previous troubled and suspicious ages, and the open amplitude of construction then first growing into practice.

The town of ATHERSTONE consists chiefly of one street, in which are many commodious dwellings. This place is not distant more than nine miles from *Bosworth Field*, on which tract of land was fought the famous battle in which King Richard the Third was conquered and slain by the forces

of the Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry the Seventh. The army of the Earl was encamped on a meadow, close to the town, for one night, immediately before it repaired to the Field of Bosworth. The Earl himself is supposed to have had his quarters at an ancient inn, still remaining, which bears the sign of the Three Tuns.

At MEREVALE, near Atherstone, is the handsome seat of D. S. Dugdale, Esq., descendant of the celebrated Sir William Dugdale, garter king of arms, and author of the History of Warwickshire. The grounds attached to this house are enriched by some of the finest oak trees in the county. Near the residence of Mr. Dugdale are the remains of a monastery, founded by Robert Earl Ferrers, in the time of King Stephen. The ruins, which are partially veiled by moss and wild grasses, present a beautiful spectacle of monastic decay.

ARBURY HALL is the mansion of J. P. Newdigate, Esq., and is erected on the site of an ancient priory. The house was greatly improved by the late Sir Roger Newdigate, Bart., a man who was much attached to learning and to the arts, while he fulfilled all the duties of the plain country gentleman. In his alterations of this seat he introduced much of that style of design which is usually called Gothic. Few persons have evinced greater taste in such a mode of building; and the house, although really neither like a castle nor a monas-

tery, still affords an agreeable memorial of the style practised in old times. Sir Roger was a benefactor to the University of Oxford.

At the distance of about two miles from the town of NUNEATON stands CALDECOTE HALL, an ancient and curious structure, which is memorable for a gallant defence made by its inhabitants against a powerful body of assailants, in the war between King Charles the First and the Parliament. In the year 1642, Prince Rupert, at the head of sixteen troops of horse, attacked this house, then the property of Colonel Purefoy. Mr. Abbot, a gentleman who had married the daughter of the colonel, assisted only by eight men, *besides his mother and her maids*, defended the building with so much bravery, that the besiegers relinquished their enterprise. It is traditionally said that the pewter dishes and plates, used in the household, were hastily cast into bullets upon this occasion.

WESTMORLAND.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Durham and Cumberland; on the west by Cumberland and Lancashire; on the south by Lancashire and Yorkshire; and on the east by Yorkshire and Durham. This is the least of all the northern counties, its greatest length being forty miles, and its extreme breadth, which occurs between Burton and Penrith, about thirty-two.

The character of the country accords with the popular derivation of the name by which it is distinguished, a district abounding in *Moor-land*, or, as some writers interpret the appellation, in *Meres*, or Lakes. With the exception of parts towards the north-east, this county chiefly consists of lofty mountains, barren hills, and vast extents of dreary moor, interspersed with valleys of some beauty and fertility. Few mineral productions are found in sufficient quantities to repay the cost of working. Limestone and slate, however, are plentiful; and the latter forms an article of beneficial export. The climate is particularly humid, owing to the contiguity of the Western Ocean, from

which the winds blow during two-thirds of the year, and bear with them exhalations that descend in rain amidst the mountains.

The principal rivers are the Eden, the Lune, the Ken or Kent, the Lowther, and the Winster.

But the most attractive, if not the most useful waters of Westmorland, consist in those numerous LAKES which have been so highly panegyrised by poets and tourists, and are found on examination to merit the warmest eulogies they have experienced. It has been observed, "that the beauty "of lake-scenery arises from a concurrence of all "the valuable materials which can enter into the "composition of landscape. The narrowness of "rivers in general, and their winding channels, by "preventing a large compass of water being seen "at once, admit little variety, either of scene or "colouring, into the distant view. But when we "place ourselves at the foot of some venerable "oak or rugged cliff, slightly elevated above the "level of a bright lake, we see the lessening of "objects and the gradation of colouring, in unin-"terrupted succession, from the foreground to the "sky: first the tree or stone covered with lichens "and mosses of many kindred hues; then the "lake, like a mirror, reflecting sinuous shores "hemmed with green pastures, where cottage "are seen, and knolls tufted with wood, lessening "behind each other till the eye mistakes the rocky

" brow of a hill for the towers of some ancient
" castle; and, last of all, mountains faintly gilded
" with sunbeams and painted with the colours of
" the sky. This kind of scenery is always viewed
" to the greatest advantage about the time of the
" rising or setting sun, when the air is clear, and
" the shadows of every object long."

Amongst the principal Lakes of Westmorland, that entitled to our first attention is termed *Ullswater*, which is partly situated in Cumberland, and has been slightly noticed in our account of that district. This lake is about nine miles in length, and varies in breadth from one quarter of a mile to two miles. The shores are much indented, and the lower parts are bordered with enclosures, interspersed with woods and cottages, and gradually climbing up hills of moderate height and gentle slopes. As it advances towards the romantic tract termed *Patterdale*, its margin becomes of a bolder character, and presents mountains, lofty, rugged, and partaking of the sublime.

The celebrated waters of *Winander-Mere* have already been partially noticed in our description of Lancashire. This lake is ten miles and a half long, and of a devious breadth, but never exceeding two miles. Its surface is varied in character by thirteen small islands. The largest of these is the property of J. C. Curwen, Esq., who has here a handsome residence, and has laid out the whole island in a

chaste and elegant style. The fields on the Westmorland margin of this lake rise gently towards the surrounding country, and are generally spotted with clumps of wood, growing naturally upon rocky knolls, of various heights and sizes. Its shores are no where remarkably bold; but the distance on every side gradually becomes wild and high.

Amongst lakes of inferior consequence, although still of great and varied beauty, must be mentioned *Broadwater*, *Grisedale-tarn*, *Red-tarn*, *Grass-mere*, *Rydal-water*, and *Elter-water*.

APPLEBY, the county-town of Westmorland, is conjectured to have risen from the ruins of a Roman station, and was certainly a place of great population and opulence at a very early period of history. In the year 1173, this place was nearly destroyed by the Scots, and was again chiefly reduced to ashes by the same foes in 1388. The foundations of buildings, discovered by the plough, for two or three miles around, evince its former great extent. At present the town consists of one broad street, irregularly placed on the slope of a steep hill, at the upper end of which stands the Castle, and at the lower end the church dedicated to St. Lawrence.

Appleby Castle is believed to have been founded before the Norman Conquest, but was probably rebuilt shortly subsequent to that æra; and was again

progressively re-edified by successive noble possessors. The most ancient of the surviving buildings is a structure of extensive proportions, appearing to be of Norman origin, although, in common with many similar erections, termed *Cæsar's Tower*. The principal part of this spacious edifice was, however, built in 1686, by Thomas Earl of Thanet, out of the ruins of the ancient castle. This erection is of a square form, and contains many noble apartments, enriched with a collection of curious and valuable family portraits. Here is also preserved the magnificent suit of armour worn by George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, when he acted as champion in the tilt-yard to Elizabeth, his royal mistress. This castle was long the residence of the Clifford family, and was fortified on the side of the king by the celebrated Lady Anne Clifford, in 1641.

The church of St. Lawrence was rebuilt in 1655, and is chiefly worthy of notice on account of two interesting monuments, erected to the memory of Margaret Countess of Cumberland, and Lady Anne Clifford.

The Grammar-school of this town has produced many eminent characters, and is still in a flourishing condition. The other public buildings are not entitled to particular attention; but it may be remarked that there is, at each end of the High-

street, a handsome stone obelisk, one of which bears the following very judicious inscription:

"Retain your Loyalty,
"Preserve your Rights."

Brougham Castle [223], situated near the remains of a Roman station, was long the residence of the Clifford family. A great part of the fabric is of early Norman architecture, but extensive additions were made at various times, the last repair taking place under the direction of Lady Anne Clifford, whose name has met with an honourable notice in our account of Appleby. After the death of that lady the building fell into utter neglect, and is now in a state of ruin. The outworks are extensive; and that side of the structure which faces the adjacent river is divided by three square towers. The central elevation consists of a lofty tower, of the same form; but the shattered turrets at the angles, and hanging galleries, are now overgrown with shrubs. The lower apartment in the principal tower still remains entire, and is covered with a vaulted roof of stone. From the construction of this dreary room, which was formerly lighted with lamps, it was probably used as the prison of the Castle. In the upper story are the remains of a chapel, rudely vaulted, and now in a decayed condition.

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Brougham Castle.

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Shap Abbey.

WILTSHIRE.

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Lediard Tregoze.

LOWTHER CASTLE, the seat of the Earl of Lonsdale, is a magnificent edifice of stone, erected about the year 1808. The whole building is designed to imitate the ancient English style of architecture, and has the reputation of being one of the most splendid specimens of the *modern antique.* The entrance is formed through an arched gateway, from which a high embattled wall, with towers at intervals, branches out each way, and encloses the entrance-court. Roads, thirty feet broad, lead to the *Terrace*, which is 500 feet in length and 100 in breadth. The centre of the north front is embellished with a rich open porch, for receiving carriages. The principal apartments are superbly furnished, and afford many judicious allusions to the style of building adopted on the exterior.

The park and pleasure-grounds which surround this noble seat abound in picturesque beauties. Prospects so various, combining the great essentials of captivating scenery, wood, water, and diversity of surface, are scarcely to be paralleled in this or any other English county.

The ABBEY OF SHAP [224], situated on a spot of profound seclusion, upon the margin of the river Lowther, was founded about the year 1119, for canons of the premonstratensian order. The chief vestiges retaining distinct architectural marks,

consist in the tower of the church, and some fragments of the chancel-walls; but the ground, for a considerable extent, is covered with foundations of the cloisters and other conventual buildings.

Brough under Stanemore occupies the site of a Roman station, and many coins of the Romans have been discovered at different times. This town is now of small extent, but is rendered of some interest by the remains of a *Castle*, which was of great strength and consideration in the Anglo-Norman ages. This building, enlarged in accordance with the progressive desire for increased domestic accommodation and splendour, formed the residence of the Cliffords through many generations. The whole of the combustible parts were accidentally destroyed by fire, shortly after the baronial festivities of Christmas, 1519; but were partially restored by the celebrated Lady Anne Clifford, in the ensuing century. This once-splendid pile, now deserted and in a state of irreclaimable ruin, is seated on a considerable eminence, and has been defended by a deep fosse, duplicated on the most exposed side. The ruins comprise the remains of several strong towers, including the keep, which was probably erected about the same time as that at Rochester, in Kent. The *Church* of this small town is a spacious fabric, evincing great antiquity in nearly every

part except the tower, which was added in the year 1513.

KENDAL, the most populous and important town in this county, consists of two principal streets, and several smaller avenues, branching off from the main thoroughfare at right angles. The chief street is well-paved, and the modern houses are capacious. They are generally built of hewn limestone, and covered with blue slate. In such parts of the town as have not been visited by recent improvement, there occur many domestic buildings, affording curious specimens of ancient architecture. Amongst the ornamental dwellings must be noticed *Abbot-Hall*, which, before the dissolution, was an occasional residence of the Abbot of St. Mary's, York. The present mansion was built about the middle of the last century, and is now the property of the Chambre family, whose ancestors have been seated in this town ever since the time of Henry the Third.

The prosperity of the manufactures and commerce of Kendal had its origin in the settlement at this place of a party of Flemish weavers, in the fourteenth century. The woollen-cloths here manufactured soon rose so highly in public esteem, that they became distinguished by the name of the town in which they were produced. The articles chiefly manufactured, in late years, are thick stuffs, termed *Kendal Cottons*, which are exported

for the clothing of Negroes, or used for sailors' jackets; and the coarse fabric called *Linsey-woolsey*. A considerable trade is also cultivated in leather, and the various branches connected with its preparation. On the banks of the adjacent river Kent are mills for different purposes, in one of which is wrought a valuable kind of marble, procured from the neighbouring spot, termed Kendal Fell.

The Public Buildings and Charitable Institutions are proportioned, in magnitude and respectability, to the opulence of the principal inhabitants. The Town-Hall is a building of considerable elegance; and the Free Grammar School, founded in 1525, is a well-conducted and flourishing establishment.

The Parochial Church is a noble edifice, 180 feet in length and 99 feet in breadth. It has five aisles, the roof being supported by four rows of pillars, eight in each row. The furniture is of oak, and of a character unusually elegant. In the different aisles are monuments and brasses, of considerable antiquity and interest.

On the east side of the river Kent are the remains of *Kendal Castle*, situated upon an elevation which is described as being artificial. This ancient appendage to the barony of Kendal, on the division of the Lancaster estates, was successively the seat of the Brus, Roos, and Parr families. The walls are circular, and were defended by three towers,

parts of which, together with a fragment of the keep, are still remaining; and it must be noticed, as an instance of public spirit and correct taste, that the foundations of the towers have been lately repaired, and the fence round the ruins enlarged, with a view to their preservation.

The following persons may be mentioned as distinguished natives of this town:—Barnaby Potter, Bishop of Carlisle, and Ephraim Chambers, author of the Cyclopædia, first published in 1728.

The valley of SCANDALE, which lies between Ambleside and Scandale-fell, near Kirkstone, ranks amongst the most beautiful tracts of this county, and affords a great variety of excellent materials for the landscape-painter.

MILTHORPE is the only town in Westmorland that is visited by the tide, which flows to this place from the estuary of the Kent, up the river Betha, over which a handsome bridge, of one arch, has been lately erected. The few vessels belonging to this port are chiefly employed in conveying the manufactures of Kendal to Liverpool, and other places on the coast.

LEVINS-HALL, a noble and venerable pile, on the southern margin of the river Kent, was built in the reign of Elizabeth. The attached gardens were laid out by the gardener of James the Second; and the lawn still preserves the tasteless character of that age. The road to Kendal sepa-

rates the house and lawn from the *Park*, which has been described as "one of the sweetest spots that "fancy can imagine. The ground in some places "is bold, and hangs abruptly over the river, or "falls into gentle slopes and easy plains. All is "variety with pleasing transitions. Thickets cover "the brows; ancient thorns, and more ancient "oaks, are scattered over the plain; and clumps "and solitary beech trees of enormous size equal, "if not surpass, any thing the Chiltern hills can "boast. The park is well stocked with fallow-"deer. The side of the Kent is famous for petri-"fying springs, that incrust vegetable bodies."

The neat and agreeable town of KIRKBY-LONSDALE, seated on the western side of the river Lune, contains many eligible domestic buildings, composed of a white and polished freestone, and covered, as is the prevailing custom in this district, with blue slate. The bridge over the Lune is very lofty, and consists of three arches, of singular beauty. The passage is, however, inconveniently narrow, and the battlements are objectionably low. The church is a capacious and interesting structure, partly in the Anglo Norman style of architecture.

Amidst the numerous tracts in this county which afford a captivating display of romantic scenery, we must not omit to notice the VALLEY OF LANGDALE. Some of the boldest mountains of West-

morland here combine to produce views of peculiar grandeur. The soft margin of the stream, which pursues a winding course through this secluded vale, is often contrasted with huge masses of disparted rock, the awful memorials of some remote convulsion.

WILTSHIRE.

THIS inland county is situated towards the south-western division of England, and is bounded on the north and north-west by Gloucestershire. Dorsetshire lies on the south-west; Hampshire on the south and east; and on the north-east the limits of this county unite with those of Berks. Its greatest length is computed to be about fifty-four miles, and its extreme width thirty-four.

In regard to character of aspect, Wiltshire affords, in its different divisions, a strongly-marked variety of scenery. The southern part presents to the eye, when surveyed from a distance, the appearance of a large and elevated plain. On a nearer inspection, however, it is found to be indented with numerous, and frequently extensive, valleys; and to display an almost uninterrupted series of gentle eminences, with occasional hills rising to a great comparative height, but never reaching a mountainous degree of elevation. The whole of this district may be described, in general terms, as being divided into the two vast tracts denominated Marlborough and Salisbury Downs.

Both these divisions are characterized by the same prevailing features, excepting, perhaps, that the eminences in the former are more abrupt and lofty than in the latter. In the neighbourhood of Stonehenge the country is almost uniformly level, and exhibits a tamer aspect than even the high wolds of Yorkshire.

In North Wiltshire we lose that mimic sea of "chalky waves" which diversifies the southern district. All is here flat, but rich. This part of the county is so well wooded, that, when viewed from any of the surrounding hills, it appears like one immense plantation of trees. The lands under tillage, or devoted to pasture, are, however, extensive and fertile; and this tract is abundantly supplied with towns and villages.

This is a county of high interest with the antiquarian traveller and student, on account of the stupendous monuments termed *Avebury* and *Stonehenge*. The wide and lonely downs likewise abound in funeral Tumuli, and other vestiges of the early Britons.

The principal rivers are the Thames and the Lower Avon. The streams of minor consideration are numerous; amongst which may be named the Upper or Salisbury Avon, the Nadder, the Wily, the Bourne, and the Kennet.

SALISBURY, or *New Sarum*, the capital of this district, is a city of considerable importance and

topographical interest. Unlike the generality of ancient towns, its origin is clearly defined by authentic record. This place entirely proceeded from the decay of a neighbouring town, the site of which is now distinguished by the name of *Old Sarum*, and affords an object of considerable curiosity. Old Sarum appears to have been founded by the Britons, and afterwards constituted a Roman station. Adopted by the Anglo-Saxons, that ancient town became the seat of episcopal sway; but, in the early part of the thirteenth century, Bishop Poore removed the see to its present situation; and at that date commences the history of the existing city. Old Sarum, situated at a small distance from Salisbury towards the north, is now entirely deserted as a spot of habitation; and few vestiges of its former buildings are to be perceived, except some fragments of foundation-walls. The curious examiner will discover, however, many traces of ancient fortification.

Salisbury is situated in a broad vale near the union of three rivers; the Wily, the Avon, and the Bourne. In regard to disposal of buildings, this city is distinguished by an arrangement at once unique, pleasing, and salutary. All the principal streets are laid out at right angles, and through each is conveyed an unfailing stream of water. With so many rivulets there must necessarily be many bridges; and hence it has been remarked

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Bowood.

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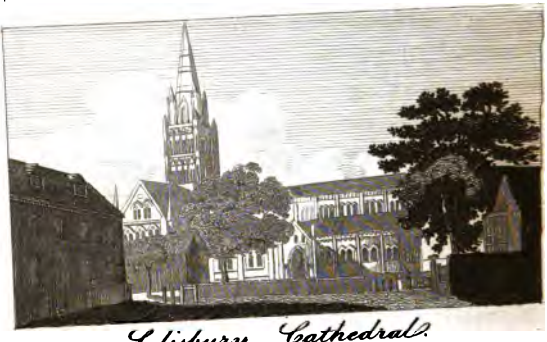

Salisbury Cathedral.

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Avebury.

that Salisbury contains more structures of that description than any city in Europe. The domestic buildings are frequently handsome, and are in general of an eligible character. Salisbury, like Lichfield, consists of two marked and discriminating features; the *Close* and the *City*. The first is occupied by the cathedral, the bishop's palace, the houses of residentiary clergy, and many capacious private dwellings. The part arbitrarily denominated the City is nearly three quarters of a mile square, and has five principal streets, running from north to south, and the same number in a contrary direction.

In an investigation of the public buildings, the Cathedral [225] claims priority of notice. This structure was commenced under the auspices of Bishop Poore, A. D. 1220; and was nearly completed (with the exception of the spire) in the prelacy of Egidius de Bridport, who died in the year 1262. Owing to this uninterrupted celerity of construction, the edifice presents a truly-gratifying example of the ecclesiastical architecture which prevailed in the early part of the thirteenth century. It is also remarkable as being the most uniform and systematic structure of the kind in England. The exterior is observable for an air of sedate grandeur, and is distinguished by an uniformity of arrangement in every part, except the

western front, the upper portion of the tower, and the whole of the spire.

The west front is more highly decorated than the other divisions of the building, and is enriched with numerous statues, niches, and other circumstances of embellishment peculiar to the ancient English mode of design. The tower is likewise sumptuously decorated, and is surmounted with a spire, scarcely less celebrated for its great height than for the beauty of its ornamental particulars. From the ground to its most elevated point this spire measures 404 feet, being exactly twice the height of the Monument of London.

The interior presents an august and uniform display of the style in architecture denominated *Early English*, where the arches are sharply pointed, the pillars clustered, and the ornaments few and subservient to an intended sublimity of general effect. Some recent alterations have been effected in this cathedral, not entirely to the satisfaction of the antiquary, but in several instances productive of considerable beauty. Amongst these must be noticed two windows at the east end, filled with coloured glass of great excellence; one from a design of Sir Joshua Reynolds, and the other from a picture by Mortimer. The stalls, bishop's throne, and organ-screen, are all of modern date, and are far from being of an estimable character. The

sepulchral monuments are very numerous, and are frequently of high interest.

On the south side of the church are spacious *Cloisters*, communicating, by means of a vestibule, with the *Chapter House*, a light and elegant fabric, of an octangular form; containing some curious specimens of ancient sculpture.

The *Bishop's Palace*, situated near the south-eastern corner of the cathedral, is a large and irregular building, evidently erected at different times. The gardens are very extensive; and in the drawing-room of the palace are portraits of several distinguished prelates who have presided over this diocese.

Salisbury contains three *Parochial Churches*, all of which are respectable structures, but not particularly distinguished either by antiquity or architectural excellence.

There were formerly several monastic foundations in this city, of which some unimportant remains are still to be seen.

The *New Council House*, situated in the market-place, is a capacious structure, completed in the year 1795, at the sole expense of the Earl of Radnor. The charitable spirit of the inhabitants is evinced in several hospitals, or alms-houses; and in an *Infirmary*, erected in 1766. The grammar-school is of royal foundation, and is at present in a very flourishing condition.

Few historical events, of general interest, are connected with this place; but it must be remarked that Henry, Duke of Buckingham, that "high-"reaching" lord who assisted in advancing Richard the Third to the throne, perished upon the scaffold in this city. He was beheaded in the market-place, in the first year of Richard's short and troubled reign. Amongst eminent natives of Salisbury may be noticed George Coryat, Latin poet and topographer, who lived towards the close of the sixteenth century; Thomas Chubb, a polemical writer of great talent, but who unfortunately argued with so much obduracy on mysterious points, that his judgment at length became lost in a profession of absolute deism; JAMES HARRIS, the celebrated author of HERMES; and John Tobin, author of the Honey-Moon, and other dramatic pieces.

CLARENDON, about two miles south-east of Salisbury, was originally a royal forest, and formerly contained a palace, in which King Henry the Second often held his court. This royal abode became greatly distinguished in the year 1164, as the scene of a council, in which were enacted those laws respecting the limits of the ecclesiastical authority which are still known by the appellation of the "*Constitutions of Clarendon*." Several succeeding sovereigns also occasionally resided at this palace; and the buildings were greatly enlarged and improved by Henry the Third. In the year

1357 Edward the Third and his two royal prisoners, the kings of France and Scotland, passed several months at this place, and often hunted in the adjoining grounds. The venerable palace is now in the last stage of ruin; but, at about the distance of one mile from the site, is a commodious modern dwelling, termed *Clarendon Lodge,* the seat of F. H. Bathurst, Esq.

The small market-town of MERE is situated in an angle of this county, bordering on Somersetshire and Dorsetshire. Here are the traces, now few and indistinct, of a castle, which, in the time of the third Henry, belonged to Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. The *Parochial Church* is a spacious edifice, with a handsome square tower rising at the west end. In this church was formerly a chantry, founded by John, Lord Stourton, in the fifteenth century. On a hill near the town is an ancient castrametation, believed to have been originally a British work.

STOURHEAD, the seat of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart., is about two miles west of Mere. This splendid mansion was chiefly erected in the early part of the eighteenth century, after designs of the architect named Colin Campbell. Considerable alterations have been since effected, and the house now contains a valuable collection of pictures, and a topographical library equally extensive and well selected. The present respected

proprietor of this domain is distinguished for a general taste in literature, but more particularly for the attention he has bestowed on the topographical history and antiquities of his native country; and, in the indulgence of this predilection, he has collected at Stourhead a vast assemblage of vestiges relating to the early periods of our national history. The pleasure-grounds and gardens are much celebrated for their natural charms, and the exquisite taste displayed in several parts of their disposal.

Longleat, the magnificent seat of the Marquis of Bath, is distant about four miles and a half from the town of *Warminster*. An ancient house on this site, burned to the ground in the latter part of the sixteenth century, was originally part of a priory for monks of the order of St. Augustine. The present stately mansion, which constitutes one of the most interesting ornaments of this part of Wiltshire, was commenced by Sir John Thynne, in the year 1567; and was completed by the son and grandson of that gentleman. The architecture is of the mixed style which prevailed towards the end of the sixteenth century; but it partakes more of the Roman than the ancient English character. The structure is entirely composed of freestone, and forms an irregular square, the greatest length being 220 feet. The interior is disposed on a scale of princely splendour, and contains numerous portraits, and some good pictures on subjects of more

general interest. The situation of this noble pile is extremely fine and picturesque. The extensive park by which it is encompassed abounds in bold, grand, and diversified scenery.

WILTON HOUSE, the celebrated seat of the Herbert family, is situated at the eastern extremity of the town of *Wilton*, and is surrounded by a spacious park. This mansion has been erected at different times, and exhibits many dissimilar styles of architecture. The original fabric was formed from the buildings of an abbey; but late alterations, effected under the direction of Mr. James Wyatt, have obliterated all traces of monastic character, and substituted a nondescript aspect, evincing too great an indulgence in fancy. The principal attraction of this seat proceeds from a noble collection of ancient sculpture, formed by the Earls of Pembroke. The collection consists of statues, busts, basso-relievos, fragments, and inscriptions, of various ages and characters. This interesting seat is also enriched by a very extensive and valuable collection of pictures.

We have observed that the county of Wilts possesses peculiar claims on the notice of the antiquary, who carries back his speculations to times antecedent to the origin of existing opinions, customs, and manners. With the exception of Avebury alone, the whole island of Great Britain does not afford so impressive and curious a monument of

remote antiquity as STONEHENGE, situated two miles west of the small town of *Amesbury*. This stupendous ruin consists of an apparently rude heap of standing and fallen stones; but the original arrangement may be easily ascertained, and it is evident that the whole consisted of two circular and two elliptical rows of upright stones, with horizontal stones lying on the outer circle, in a continued order all around; and five imposts, or horizontal stones, on ten uprights of the third row. The whole deranged structure is surrounded by a ditch and vallum of earth. The stones differ in form and size; but are frequently from thirteen to fifteen feet in height, their circumference being eighteen feet. That this monument was erected by the early Britons is not doubted by any judicious examiner; but the use to which it was appropriated is more difficult of solution. It is generally supposed to have been designed for the performance of religious ceremonies, under the Druidical superstition. Like the most distinguished religious structures of recent times, it was, however, probably used for the inauguration of princes: and may, also, have formed a place of judicial, and other important civil assemblies.

WILBURY HOUSE, the seat of Sir C. W. Malet, Bart., is distant from Amesbury about four miles. The whole of the attached grounds have been taken from the dreary and almost sterile Downs of Salis-

bury; and the sylvan beauties of this enclosed tract now form a striking, and most grateful, contrast to the surrounding country. The house, which is built of stone, consists of a centre and two corresponding wings, and is well adapted to the comfortable, but unostentatious, accommodation of the English country gentleman.

Devizes, an ancient and extensive town, situated near the centre of the county, is seated upon elevated ground, and comprises several streets, which display much diversity and irregularity of building. This place was formerly celebrated for a castle of great strength and beauty, erected in the reign of Henry the First, by Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, famed for a love of architecture, chiefly exhibited in castellated structures. In the disastrous reign of Stephen the bishop excited the jealousy of his sovereign, and the Castle of Devizes was assailed by the royal forces. It was defended by the prelate's nephew, Nigel, Bishop of Ely, but was surrendered under the following curious circumstances:—"The king ordered a gallows to be "erected in front of the castle, and threatened to "hang Roger's son upon it, if Ely remained obdu-"rate. Already was the rope placed round the "neck of the youth, without any symptom of the "bishop's disposition to surrender, when Roger, "anxious to save him from an ignominious death, "bound himself by a solemn oath to abstain from

" all sustenance till the king was put in possession
" of the castle. This oath was made known to
" Ely, but he still remained inexorable, and held
" out for three days before he could be induced
" to an unwilling surrender. The long fasting and
" grief of mind proved fatal to Roger, who sur-
" vived the loss of his favourite fortress, of his
" dignity, and of his treasures, only a few
" months."

It is not accurately known at what time this fortress was dismantled, but that event probably occurred towards the close of the reign of Edward the Third. The building was situated on the west side of the town, but is now entirely demolished, and the site converted into pleasure-grounds.

Devizes contains two churches. The structure dedicated to St. John has been described as " one
" of the most interesting parochial churches, to
" the architectural antiquary, in Great Britain." The styles of architecture displayed in this edifice are various. The chancel, the tower, and the transept are the most ancient parts, and are believed to have been built nearly at the same time with the castle, probably under the direction of Roger, Bishop of Salisbury. Very interesting traces of the circular style are apparent in each of these divisions. The tower is peculiarly curious, both with respect to form and ornament; the east and west arches by which it is supported being semicircular,

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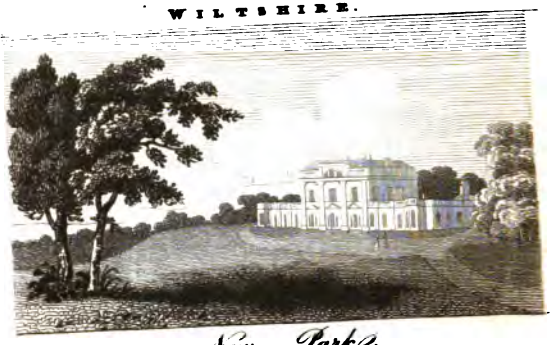


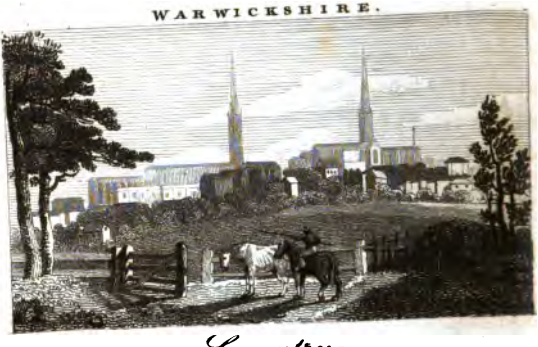
New Park.

227

Corsham House.

WARWICKSHIRE.

219



Coventry.

and those on the north and south pointed, although evidently built at the same time, and decorated in a similar manner.

The church of St. Mary is also entitled to deliberate notice. The chancel, which constitutes the most ancient part, is in the earliest Anglo-Norman style, and is therefore supposed to have been erected shortly after the conquest. The south porch, which has a pointed arch with zig-zag mouldings, affords a good specimen of the dawning English mode of architecture, as it prevailed in the reign of Henry the Second. The remainder of the church was rebuilt about the middle of the fifteenth century.

There is also in this town a chapel of ease, dedicated to St. James, which is a neat structure, situated at the eastern extremity of the town, and affords a picturesque object at several points of view.

New Park [226], distant from Devizes about one mile, is the elegant seat of Thomas Estcourt, Esq. The mansion was erected after the designs of Mr. Samuel Wyatt, and stands on rising ground, whence there is a charming and extensive view. This seat contains a few good pictures, and the attached park is enriched by woods of various growth, either collected in ample masses, or lightly scattered in groups and single trees. At a short distance from the limits of this demesne is *Round-*

away Hill, memorable as the spot on which the Parliamentary forces under Sir William Waller experienced a total defeat in 1644. On the summit of the hill are the remains of a strong and ancient encampment, usually called *Roundaway Castle.*

BRADFORD, a considerable market and manufacturing town, is situated on the banks of the Avon, and is surrounded by a bold and romantic tract of country. This is a town of great antiquity, and has attained some historical celebrity, as the scene of a sanguinary contest between Cenwalph, King of the West-Saxons, and a large body of his rebellious subjects, in the year 652. At this place was formerly a monastic building, which is supposed to have been destroyed by the Danes. The *Church* is a spacious and ancient edifice of stone, containing several curious monuments. The banks of the river Avon, in the contiguity of this town, afford much beautiful and picturesque scenery.

CORSHAM HOUSE [227], the superb seat of P. C. Methuen, Esq. was partly built about the year 1582; and the original portions of the structure, in conformity to the fashion of that age, display an incongruous mixture of Grecian, Roman, and English architecture. In the year 1747 the estate was purchased by the father of the present proprietor; and the house was subsequently enlarged, under the direction of Launcelot Brown.

The additions made at that time comprise a gallery and suite of state-apartments, designed for the reception of Sir Paul Methuen's collection of pictures. Upon trial, however, these rooms were found insufficient to admit all the collection, and splendid augmentations were effected by direction of the present proprietor, under the care of Mr. Nash. Many of the apartments are of noble proportions, and are furnished with an admirable correctness of taste. But the great attraction of this edifice consists in the splendid collection of pictures here reposited, which was chiefly formed by the late Sir Paul Methuen, and is believed to be the only collection made at the same period that has continued perfect to the present day. This extensive and valuable assemblage of paintings comprises some of the best works of the old masters, and is open for public inspection on the Tuesday and Friday in every week. The pleasure-grounds of Corsham abound in beautiful scenery, and were improved and embellished under the direction of the late Mr. Repton.

Bowood [228], the seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne, is situated in one of the finest districts of this county, at the distance of two miles from the town of *Calne*. The mansion stands on elevated ground, and was principally erected by John, Earl of Shelburne, grandfather of the present possessor, from designs by the Adams's. The works of those

architects are invariably distinguished by a plenitude of minute decorations, which may be admired as pretty, but are quite at variance with the production of true grandeur in architectural effect. With more correct taste and enlarged mind the first marquis augmented the buildings by adding a wing, about 300 feet in extent, the elevation of which is in imitation of a wing of Dioclesian's palace at Spalatro. This forms the southern side of two quadrangular courts, which are surrounded by domestic offices. The principal front is towards the south, and is ornamented with a spacious portico, supported by ten columns of the Doric order. On the pediment are the family arms, sculptured in bold relief. Many of the apartments are enriched with interesting and valuable pictures and drawings, amongst which is a fine portrait of Sir William Petty, the founder of this noble family, whose name has occurred in our description of Hampshire.

The park and pleasure-grounds of Bowood are very extensive, and worthy of attentive examination. Within the boundaries of this demesne are contained nine valleys, each of which is characterized by its own peculiar form, feature, and scenery. About thirty acres of one irregular vale are covered by a lovely and translucent lake, at the lower extremity of which is a rocky headland, through which the water rushes in several broken

streams, and forms a cascade eminent for wildness of character and picturesque effect. Nature is assisted, and not incumbered, throughout the whole domain. The only building in the grounds is a mausoleum, which was erected for himself by John, Earl of Shelburne, and is inscribed to his memory.

MALMSBURY, a town of considerable antiquity and topographical interest, is seated on a commanding eminence, peninsulated by two small streams. The origin of this place is ascribed to a monastic foundation, which, by progressive degrees, attained great opulence and power. A castle, erected at a subsequent date, bestowed military defence on the cloisters of religious seclusion. The town was formerly surrounded by a wall, parts of which are still visible; and that ancient barrier was entered by four massive gates, now entirely destroyed.

It is believed that the Abbey of Malmsbury was founded in the seventh century. The institution was greatly favoured by many successive Anglo-Saxon kings, and was scarcely less distinguished by sovereigns posterior to the Norman conquest. The monks were of the Benedictine order; and, aided by a continuation of regal munificence, the establishment rose to power and wealth, only secondary, in the west of England, to the advantages possessed by the celebrated Abbey of Glastonbury. The buildings are said to have occupied forty-five

acres of ground; but there are now few remains, except the abbey-church, which was a structure of great magnificence. This fabric appears to have been erected at that period in which the circular and pointed arch were both in fashion, although the former was declining in public esteem. The prevailing style in the arches, columns, and ornaments, is the Anglo-Norman; but the pointed mode is adopted on both sides of the nave, and in the vaulting of the aisles, which were evidently erected at the same time as those portions in which the circular style is used. The present remains of this once-spacious pile comprise only the nave with its aisles, parts of the transept, and a large porch on the southern side. The western front is much mutilated, but its remains prove that it must have been, when perfect, unusually grand and impressive. Several Anglo-Saxon princes and prelates were interred within these walls, but none of their tombs can now be traced.

The *Castle* of Malmsbury was erected by Roger, Bishop of Sarum, whose fondness for a display of magnificence in architecture has been noticed in a previous page. This fortress is mentioned in many parts of our national annals, and was the first castle assailed and reduced by Prince Henry, afterwards Henry, the second king of England of that name, when he asserted his rights in opposition to the usurping Stephen.

The town contains vestiges of several ecclesiastical structures, inferior in consequence to those already described; and the antiquarian visitant will find some gratification in a view of the *Market-Cross*, which is thought to have been erected in the time of Henry the Seventh.

Malmsbury was distinguished, at an early period, for a prosperous cultivation of the clothing trade. This branch of commerce, however, declined after the period of the Commonwealth, but has lately been revived upon a small scale.

This place has produced the following eminent natives:—Oliver of Malmsbury, a learned monk, born early in the eleventh century; William of Malmsbury, unquestionably one of the best of our early historians, born towards the middle of the same century; and Thomas Hobbes, a celebrated philosophical and political writer, born in the year 1588.

At the distance of one mile from the above town is Charlton Park, the seat of the Earl of Suffolk. This is a large and magnificent structure of freestone, in the form of an oblong square, with four dissimilar fronts, of which the western is said to have been designed by Inigo Jones. The front towards the east, together with the greater part of the building, is of a comparatively modern character, having been erected in the time of Henry, Earl of Suffolk and Berks, who died in 1779. Some

curious and interesting portraits are preserved in this mansion; but the chief collection of the noble proprietor of the domain is preserved in his London residence.

LIDDIARD PARK [229], immediately contiguous to the village of *Liddiard Tregoze*, is the seat of Lord Bolingbroke. The mansion is a spacious and handsome building, surrounded by extensive grounds, enriched with much venerable wood. At one extremity a portion of the park is separated from the remainder by a fine sheet of water. The annexed print shews the south and east sides of the house, as viewed from the margin of this ornamental pond.

The town of CRICKLADE is situated in a flat tract of country, on the southern bank of the river Isis, or Thames, which has its source not far from the town. This was formerly a place of considerable population and importance, but its consequence is now much diminished. The buildings are chiefly ranged in one long street, in the central part of which stands the Town-House, a fabric supported upon ten pillars, and erected in the year 1569. This town contains two churches, that dedicated to *St. Sampson* being the principal. The church thus denominated is built in the form of a cross, having a handsome tower in the centre. The summit is adorned with an open balustrade, above which rise four angular pinnacles, with niches and

pedestals. The tower is open within, to a considerable height, and is ornamented with several shields of arms, among which may be noticed the cognizance of the Earls of Warwick. The church dedicated to *St. Mary* is a venerable pile, displaying some vestiges of Anglo-Norman architecture.

CHILTON LODGE, near the town of *Hungerford*, occupies the site of an ancient mansion, which was formerly the residence of Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, confidential secretary to Oliver Cromwell, who retired hither previous to the Restoration. The estate was afterwards possessed by Governor Holwell, memorable as being the last survivor of the unfortunate persons who were confined in the Hole at Calcutta. The present mansion was erected, some few years back, after the designs of Mr. Pilkington.

Near the village of AVEBURY [230], or ABURY, about four miles from Marlborough towards the west, is to be viewed the most gigantic and most interesting of our ancient British monuments. In the present dilapidated state of this vast but rude structure, it is difficult to convey due ideas respecting its former extent and character. The immense stones and earth-works of which it was composed have been gradually encroached upon, and destroyed, by the farmers and other inhabitants of the neighbouring village; and the ponderous, but

confused relics, are now much less imposing in effect than those of Stonehenge, although unquestionably more curious, as well as of greater antiquity.

Some knowledge concerning the original state of this vast temple may be communicated in the following terms. A large and flat area of ground was surrounded by a broad ditch and a lofty vallum. The bank, or vallum, was raised on the outside of the ditch, with a terrace about the middle of the inner slope, appearing to have been designed as a standing-place for spectators. Immediately within the ditch, and encompassing the whole area, was a continued series of large upright stones, 100 in number. These stones were placed at regular distances, and usually measured from fifteen to seventeen feet in height, and about forty feet in circumference. Within the area of this circle were two double circles, each consisting of two concentric circles. Both of the exterior circles were formed by thirty stones, of similar dimensions, and equally distant from each other, as in the large enclosing circle. The inner ones consisted of twelve stones, of like proportions. In the interior of the southern concentric circle was an upright stone, of larger dimensions than any of the others; and within the northern one was a group of three stones, placed perpendicularly, and having a large flat stone for an impost. There were two entrances

into the grand circle, which were approached by two avenues, or double rows of upright stones, extending a mile in length, and each formed by 100 stones, placed at nearly equal distances. One of these avenues had, at its further extremity, a double concentric circle, of comparatively small dimensions. The other avenue had, at its termination, only a single large and upright stone, near which were several barrows, or tumuli. On the northern side of this avenue, at the fiftieth stone, was a group of three stones, resembling the erection noticed in the interior of the northern circle.

Such were the arrangement and construction of this immense temple; but the date at which it was formed, and the specific solemnities for which it was designed, are hidden for ever by that profound veil which has fallen over the superstition and customs of remote and unlettered ages. Various conjectures on these topics have been hazarded by ingenious writers; but none of the opinions adduced appear to be of a satisfactory character. From the less artificial mode of construction it may, however, be safely argued, that this temple is of higher antiquity than the elaborate monument at Stonehenge, and that it was probably formed by the first rude Celtic inhabitants of the island.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

THIS inland county is situated near the centre of the kingdom, and is bounded on the north and north-west by Staffordshire and Shropshire. On the east it unites with the county of Warwick; on the south with Gloucestershire, and on the west with the county of Hereford. Its form is very irregular, and there are on every side detached tracts, completely surrounded by neighbouring counties. The extent has not been accurately ascertained; but, according to the most judicious computation, the extreme length is about thirty-six miles, and the greatest breadth twenty-six.

This county has been much admired for the fine combinations of landscape scenery afforded in several parts. The southern division is most rich in natural beauty. In that direction rise the Malvern and the Breedon Hills, replete with charms of a diversified character. In the vicinity of Worcester the face of the country is also truly captivating, and most parts of the county are agreeably varied with hill and vale. Wood is abundant, and the banks of the different rivers are scarcely excelled,

in fertility and picturesque display, by those of any streams in South Britain.

Interspersed with fields appropriated to the common purposes of husbandry, are numerous hop-grounds and orchards, which add to the attraction of the scenery, whilst they conduce, in an important degree, to the valuable products of this county.

The mineralogical productions are few. Freestone, fit for building, is found in several parts; and limestone is worked in great abundance. At Droitwich are salt-springs, cultivated with considerable success.

The principal rivers are the Severn, the Avon, the Teme, and the Stour.

Worcester, the capital of this county, has the general reputation of being one of the best-built and most agreeable cities in the kingdom. Its situation is greatly favourable to the display of its buildings, and the comfort of the inhabitants. Placed on the banks of the Severn, its spacious streets rise gradually from the margin of that river, whilst they are sheltered from the chill and injurious blasts of the east by a well-wooded hill. The circumference of the city is about four miles. The streets are in general broad and well paved, and continual improvements are taking place.

The first event of importance in the annals of this ancient city, relates to a destruction of its principal buildings, in the year 1041, by order of

Hardicanute, in consequence of the inhabitants refusing to pay the tax termed *Danegelt*. The city was likewise twice reduced by fire in the twelfth century, and suffered severely in the wars between Stephen and the Empress Maud. During the civil wars of the seventeenth century, this place was a frequent object of contention between the rival parties; and, in the year 1651, became the scene of that memorable battle in which Cromwell entirely defeated the Scotch army, and other partizans of Charles the Second. The escape of the Prince, and some circumstances attending his temporary secretion at Boscobel, have been already noticed in our account of Shropshire. It may be remarked, in the present page, that the heat of the battle lay to the east of the city, and the principal slaughter is said to have occurred "between "Perrywood and the Commandery."

Worcester was formerly surrounded by a fortified wall, some remains of which may still be seen. The wall appears to have been of great strength, and was entered by six gates, now taken down.

In a consideration of the public structures, the curiosity of the enquirer is necessarily first directed to the *Cathedral*. The diocess of Worcester is of Anglo-Saxon origin, but the Cathedral-buildings have twice experienced the desolating effects of fire, and now present few relics of architecture more ancient than the early part of the thirteenth

century. The existing fabric was dedicated, in the presence of King Henry the Third and many of the principal nobility, in the year 1218; but was considerably augmented and improved in various succeeding ages, the last alteration of importance taking place about the year 1380.

In regard to the exterior, this edifice displays little ornament, but constitutes an object of great beauty, on account of its dignified proportions, and the elegant lightness of its architecture. The noble tower which rises from the centre is 200 feet in height, and is richly ornamented with niches, canopies, and sculpture. This part of the building was completed in 1374.

The interior presents an august architectural display, in which the pointed style almost universally prevails. The columns of the nave are elaborately clustered, with capitals highly ornamented. The two western arches of this division of the structure are semi-circular, and worthy of attentive examination, as vestiges which have survived the two disastrous fires to which the building was exposed. The magnificent west window was remodelled in 1789.

The choir is extremely magnificent, and affords, in its different parts many instructive examples of the progressive modes adopted in English architecture. The stalls, which are in a state of excellent preservation, are of oak, and were constructed

about the year 1397. These ancient seats are adorned with much curious carving, partly allusive to the animosity which continually prevailed between the regular Monks and the preaching Friars. The pulpit is of an octangular form, the front and sides being of stone, richly decorated with emblematic carvings. The great east window was new-modelled in 1792.

The monuments are very numerous, and are frequently of great interest. Above thirty of the bishops of Worcester are interred in this cathedral; and within the same walls lie the remains of several personages more highly distinguished in the general annals of the country. Amongst these must be noticed the tomb of King John, which is the most ancient royal monument now remaining in England. This altar-tomb is situated near the east end of the choir. Upon the top lies the sculptured resemblance of the king, with the crown upon the head. In the right hand is placed the sceptre, and in the left a sword, whose point is received in the mouth of a lion couchant. On the south side of the choir is the chantry of Prince Arthur, elder brother of Henry the Eighth, a sepulchral chapel, surrounded on all sides, except that towards the east, with richly-ornamented open work. The tomb is of white marble, superbly decorated.

On the south side of the Cathedral is a capacious *Cloister*, constructed about the year 1372. The

adjacent *Chapter House* is a beautiful structure, erected nearly at the same time with the cloister. This building, which is worthy of minute inspection, now serves the double purpose of a council-room and library.

In the tract termed College-Green, on the same side of the cathedral, is a fabric of some notoriety, known by the appellation of *Edgar's Tower*, which is said to have formerly constituted the principal entrance to the Castle, but is now occupied as the registrar's office.

The *Palace of the Bishop* stands near the cathedral, on a commanding site, upon the banks of the river Severn. This structure was originally surrounded by embattled walls, and had all the rude dignity of an ancient baronial residence. Modern alterations have meliorated so undesirable a severity of aspect, and the mansion is now well-suited to the hospitable duties incumbent on a christian prelate.

The Parochial Churches are ten in number, several of which are highly respectable as architectural objects. The building dedicated to St. Clement retains many traces of Anglo-Norman design.

Amongst the Monastic Foundations of this town the most remarkable was that termed the *Commandery*, a house belonging to the Knights-Hospitallers. Some remains of the building, including

a part of the chapel, and the great hall, or refectory, are still to be seen. The attention of the antiquary is also demanded to the lofty mount, on which formerly stood the keep of Worcester Castle. This hill is now enclosed in a pleasure-garden, and is the only vestige of the fortress, with the exception of some parts of the walls, now worked into the buildings of the county-gaol.

The *Guildhall* is a spacious and handsome structure, finished in 1723, from a design of Mr. White, a native architect, and a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren. This fabric is composed of brick, with ornamental parts of stone, the whole being surmounted with statues respresenting Justice, Peace, Plenty, Industry, and Chastisement. The *Bridge* over the Severn was rebuilt in 1781, and is an erection of considerable elegance. The Charitable Institutions are numerous, and include an Infirmary, built and supported by voluntary contributions.

The commerce of this city is very great, arising not only from the surplus products of the county and its own manufactures, but from the great conveniencies resulting from its very extended water carriage. The principal manufactures are those of a beautiful species of porcelain, and of gloves, which are much approved, and are exported in large quantities.

The small and straggling town of DROITWICH

occupies a low situation, on the banks of the Salwarpe. This place is chiefly remarkable for its *Salt-works*, which appear to have been cultivated in the earliest ages of English history, and were of considerable importance when the Survey termed Domesday was made by order of William the First. The great substratum of the vicinity of Droitwich is described as being a salt-rock, which usually lies from one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet below the level. On boring in any part, the salt-springs are found about one hundred and ten feet below the surface. The borer then passes through nearly one hundred and thirty feet of gypsum, when the brine river, of about twenty-two inches in depth, is met with. The process of the manufacture may be explained in the following terms:—A small quantity of common water is first put in the pans, to prevent the brine from burning to the bottom. The pan is then filled with brine, and a small piece of resin, about the size of a pea, is thrown in, to hasten the granulation. The salt, when boiling, forms its crystallizations on the surface; these fall to the bottom, and from thence are laded into baskets, permitted for some time to drain, and then put into stoves, to harden the salt for use. The salt-springs of Droitwich possess more strength than those found in any other part of England, and form a source of great emolument to the inhabitants.

HAGLEY [231], the far-famed seat of the noble family of Lyttleton, is justly regarded as one of the principal ornaments of this county. The present mansion was erected by the first Lord Lyttleton, near the site of an ancient building which had long constituted the family residence. The form is that of a parallelogram, and the south front is adorned with a light and elegant double range of steps, from which the prospect is very extensive. The principal apartments are furnished in a refined taste, and are enriched with a noble collection of pictures, equally calculated to gratify the connoisseur and the student of biographical history.

The grounds abound in natural beauties, and were laid out with exquisite judgment by George Lord Lyttleton. The artificial ornaments are more numerous than is allowed in modern landscape-gardening, but are so well placed and skilfully designed, that they unite harmoniously with the more simple charms of the scenery. All around is indeed classic ground, and every point of prospect, or decorative particular, acquires additional attraction from a remembrance of the departed worth and wit with which it is connected. The first Lord Lyttleton drew around him, in this dignified retreat, the most eminent men of his era; and the character of the domain is thus justly delineated by Thomson, who often studied the beauties and varieties of nature in the shades of Hagley:

"The British Tempe! There along the tide,
"With woods o'erhung, and shagg'd with mossy rocks—
"There on each hand the gushing waters play,
"And down the rough cascade white dashing fall,
"Or gleam in lengthened vista through the trees."

The *Church* of Hagley stands embosomed in trees, at a short distance from the house. This venerable fabric contains monuments to many illustrious members of the Lyttleton family, amongst whom must be mentioned Lucy, the first wife of George Lord Lyttleton, whose death was deplored by that amiable nobleman in a well-known monody. This monument is of white marble, and consists of an urn on a pedestal. Upon the front is carved, in relief, a female face in profile; and under it is inscribed the word "Lucia!" The figure of Hymen rests on the pedestal, his torch extinct, and his eyes suffused in tears. Under a plain slab, on a contiguous spot, lie the remains of the bereaved husband, thus re-united, in pallid and mournful fellowship, with the object most beloved in life.

The town of KIDDERMINSTER chiefly occupies a low situation, and is divided into two unequal parts by the river Stour. Towards the extremities of the town, many of the houses are cut out of the solid rock, in a similar manner to those described as forming part of the town of Nottingham. The inhabitants are extensively engaged in the manu-

facture of carpets, which are thought to be unrivalled for beauty of pattern and excellence of colours. The manufacture of coarse woollen articles was formerly cultivated on a large scale, but has declined in recent years. To this homely, but useful branch of manufacture, Shenstone alludes in the following lines, addressed to a bard whose effusions were more conspicuous for quantity than merit:

"Thy verses, friend, are *Kidderminster Stuff*,
"And I must own you've measur'd out enough."

The *Church* [232] is a handsome structure, in the pointed style of architecture, and is seated in a commanding situation on the brow of a knoll. The interior is fitted up with exemplary neatness, and contains several ancient monuments of considerable interest. At the east end of the churchyard is a Free Grammar-school of great utility; and the schools for charitable education, of a more humble character, are numerous, and reflect much honour on the liberal views of the inhabitants. There are also twelve alms-houses for the comfort of the aged; and a dispensary, supported by voluntary contribution.

Near the town, on the banks of the canal, are the remains of an ancient castle, which is believed to have belonged to the Cooksey family, two knights of which name have monuments in the parochial church.

Great Malvern Church.

Kidderminster Church.

Hartlebury Castle.

STOURPORT, about four miles from Kidderminster, on the banks of the Severn, is a town of modern creation, and owes its existence to the Trent and Severn, or Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, which forms an important medium of communication between the central and western parts of the kingdom. The houses are in general neat and commodious; and the spirit of commercial enterprise which prevails is denoted by the capacious wharfs and numerous warehouses. The *Bridge* [233] thrown over the river Severn at this place consists of a single arch, of cast iron, 150 feet in span, and about fifty feet in perpendicular height above the surface of the water. The avenues to the main arch comprise, on both sides, a long range of smaller arches, composed of brick, extending, on the whole, between six and seven hundred feet.

HARTLEBURY CASTLE [234] has formed for many centuries the country residence of the bishops of Worcester. In former times this structure possessed all the harshness of an ancient fortress, and continued in a defencible state so late as the reign of Henry the Eighth. In the reign of Charles the First the castle was seized by Colonel Morgan; but was repaired and improved subsequent to the Restoration, and now constitutes a spacious mansion of an elegant and appropriate character.

The principal part of the present building was erected under the direction of Bishop Hough, in the early part of the eighteenth century; but great improvements were effected by the late venerable Bishop Hurd, who furnished the library with a select and well-chosen collection of books, for the use of his successors in the see of Worcester. Among this collection are the principal and most estimable works from the libraries of Mr. Pope and Bishop Warburton. The castle is situated on rising ground, and has, towards the south, a lovely and extensive prospect over the vale of Severn.

The busy and thriving town of Bewdley is situated on the banks of the Severn, near the centre of a populous manufacturing district. In the sixteenth century this place acquired some additional consequence, on account of the residence of Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry the Seventh, at *Tickenhill*, in the immediate neighbourhood. King Charles the First fixed his quarters here, for some time, during the disastrous civil wars of his period.

A considerable part of this town is built on the side of a hill, and is of an eligible character; but the more ancient buildings are framed of timber-work, and appear to be sunk in an undesirable hollow when viewed from the neighbouring heights. The river navigation is busy and prosperous, and there are extensive wharfs on each side of the

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Bewdly Bridge.

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Stourport Bridge.

237

Croome House.

Severn. The *Bridge* [225] is a light and elegant structure of modern erection.

In ecclesiastical arrangement, Bewdley is comprised in the parish of *Ribbesford*, and has, therefore, only a Chapel of Ease for the accommodation of the inhabitants. This structure was rebuilt in the year 1748, and is of a neat and decorous character. The Town-Hall is a commodious modern building of stone; and there is a Free-School, founded in the reign of Elizabeth. The trade of the inhabitants chiefly depends upon the traffic of the Severn; but the tanning of leather has long been an established and lucrative business; and the caps for sailors made here are held in great esteem, and are exported in considerable quantities.—Richard Willis, Bishop of Winchester, was son of a tradesman in this town, engaged in the manufacture of the above-named kind of caps.

The country in the vicinity of Bewdley is extremely beautiful, and is enriched with several ancient buildings, amongst which the *Church of Ribbesford* is particularly deserving of investigation. This venerable pile affords some curious traces of circular architecture (termed *Saxon* by some tourists) blended with interesting specimens of the pointed style. Over the doorway is a very ancient piece of sculpture; and the interior contains several monumental tablets, and some armorial bearings. In the vicinity is a venerable mansion, formerly the

seat of Sir Henry Herbert, youngest brother of the romantic Lord Herbert of Cherbury.

The MALVERN HILLS, situated in the south-west part of the county, are greatly celebrated for beauty of scenery, and are rendered additionally attractive on account of the medicinal waters which rise in their vicinity, and promise

> "The nerve relax'd to brace; the vital tide
> "Exhausted to replenish."

This fine range of hills consists of an uninterrupted chain of elevations, about nine miles in length; the greatest breadth not exceeding two miles. The several hills all present rounded summits, and from one extremity to the other the whole are nearly covered with a luxuriant vegetation. The prospects obtained from various points are grand and extensive, whilst the valleys have a pastoral softness of character that denies delineation. Many spots abound in curious mineralogical productions.

Two villages demanding notice are included in this captivating district.

GREAT MALVERN, the principal resort of visitors, consists of about sixty houses, many of which are of an ornamental description, and are rendered of a rural and pleasing character by attached gardens and plantations of fruit-trees. From different parts of the village the aspect of the hills is bold and striking, and fine views are gained of the sur-

rounding country, where cultivation and the softer beauties of improvement constitute the principal features In the environs of the village are several handsome villas, forming the constant summer residence of their proprietors, persons of fortune, induced to select this place for an abode, on account of the beauties of the situation and the social intercourse to be obtained. It has been observed that "Malvern, though very small, boasts "of some conveniencies, perhaps in a superior style "to other places; for invalids who require greater "retirement than usual may be supplied with lodg-"ings (and that on a scale agreeable to their cir-"cumstances) in private families, several of whom "appropriate part of their houses for the accom-"modation of strangers during the summer "months."

The *Church* [236] is a noble structure, 171 feet long and sixty-three feet in width. The plan is cruciform; and from the centre springs a square tower, 124 feet in height. This fine building was re-edified in the reign of Henry the Seventh, under the care of Sir Reginald Bray, whose architectural talents are also displayed in the Chapel at Westminster, and in the Chapel of St. George at Windsor. In the renovation then effected the ancient nave was suffered to remain, and that part of the building is an interesting specimen of the Anglo-Norman style. Every other division is in

the *Florid* mode which marked the decline of pointed architecture, and which chiefly depends for attraction on lightness of design, and a countless variety of ornamental particulars. As an example of this costly style, the church of Malvern is entitled to a high rank amongst ecclesiastical buildings; and the tower must be allowed by the most fastidious observer to be of eminent beauty. The antiquary will not fail to observe, that the east end has been paved with decorated tiles, containing the armorial bearings of many old and noble families. There are also several monuments worthy of attentive inspection. This church was formerly attached to a Priory of Benedictine Monks, which flourished until the time of the dissolution of monastic houses in the time of *Henry* the Eighth. The entrance to the priory still remains, and is known by the name of the Abbey-Gate.

Little Malvern, formerly a village of considerable extent, but now containing only a few humble dwellings, is seated on a gentle slope, near the entrance of a spacious hollow in this hilly tract of country. Here was formerly, as in the neighbouring village, a Benedictine Priory; but this latter religious house was less patronized by affluent benefactors, and was merely a cell to Worcester. The *Church*, now partly in ruins, is a picturesque and impressive object; a screen of mantling ivy hiding, in a great measure, the dire-

garded havoc effected by time in the pointed masonry. In the windows are some traces of painted glass; and the interior formerly contained several monuments of high antiquity, now in a state of utter desolation. Near the church is a domestic structure of ancient frame-work, occupying the site of the priory. The romantic and sequestered situation of this dwelling possesses unusual attractions for the poet and the landscape-painter.

The VALE OF EVESHAM is much praised for beauty, and is rendered of proverbial value, in the esteem of the agriculturalist, on account of the fertility of its soil. The district thus denominated is not confined simply to the limits of a valley, but comprehends an indefinite expanse of country, stretching over almost the whole south-eastern range of the county.

In the richest part of this valuable district is seated the town of EVESHAM, which rises, with a gradual augmentation of beauty, from the banks of the river Avon. This place was distinguished, at an early period, for a well-endowed and magnificent religious foundation, with the origin and decay of which the annals of the town are closely involved. The Abbey of Evesham is said to have been founded by St. Egwin, during the Anglo-Saxon octarchy; and the monks were at one time possessed of twenty-two towns. The revenues, at the dissolution, amounted to upwards of £1200

sterling. So affluent an association necessarily conduced greatly to the prosperity of the inhabitants, and Évesham appears to have maintained a high rank in the scale of provincial towns during the middle ages.

In the reign of Henry the Third this place became distinguished as the scene of that important battle in which the gallantry and good conduct of Prince Edward restored his royal father to liberty and his throne. The procedure and principal events of the memorable conflict are detailed in the history of the country at large; but we cannot refrain from noticing some few circumstances of a local interest. It will be recollected that the Prince had recently escaped from the hands of his keepers, as is noticed in our account of Herefordshire. At the head of a resolute army, flushed with some recent advantages obtained at the sword's point, he made his appearance on the heights above Evesham, early on the 4th of August, 1265. Simon Montfort, Earl of Leicester, was then in the abbey; but he marched out of the town, about noon, to give battle to the royal forces. The action is thought to have commenced in the immediate vicinity of the hill on which Edward had taken post; with Offenham and the Avon at some distance on his right; a gentle declivity into the vale on his left; the rising hill on the Warwick road in his front; the body of his army

on the flat, at the summit; and his rear extending, perhaps, as far as the present turnpike, near which is the water termed *Battle-well.* Where the brunt of the conflict lay there was but little room for either party to extend its front; and the slaughter, therefore, was included in a very small space. The battle raged until the termination of a long summer's evening, when further efforts on the baronial side were evidently futile, and the Earl of Leicester, after being denied quarter, rushed amidst the thickest of his foes, and perished in that way which warriors are taught to believe honourable, whatever may be the complexion of their quarrel. The remnant of the defeated army appear to have directed their flight towards the Avon; and the slaughter then was probably greatest at *Offenham,* where are still the ruins of a bridge, said to have been broken down by some of Edward's troops, to cut off the means of retreat. Bones have been frequently dug up near the scene of these sanguinary transactions.

The buildings of the abbey were originally of great extent; and the remains, although few, are of a magnificent character. The stately tower formerly attached to the abbey-church is the chief architectural ornament of Evesham, and constitutes a prominent feature in the view of the town from several distant points. The ancient gateway of

the monastery is also standing, and is a curious fragment, adorned with numerous carved figures, now in a mutilated state. A considerable range of wall, and some unimportant vestiges of the domestic parts of the structure, are to be seen in the vicinity of the Avon.

At a short distance from the ruins of the monastery stands the decayed church of St. Lawrence, a beautiful fabric in the pointed style of architecture, now overgrown with weeds and grass.

The present Parochial Church is a venerable and well-preserved structure, containing several monuments of considerable antiquity.

Croome Court [287], an elegant seat of the Earl of Coventry, is distant about four miles from the small town of *Upton*. This estate was possessed by the ancestors of the present proprietor in the sixteenth century, but the park remained nearly in a state of moor-ground, and quite destitute of all artificial auxiliaries of beauty, until about fifty years back, when a new aspect was bestowed on the domain through the munificence of the late Earl, assisted by the professional talents of Brown, the landscape-gardener.

The mansion is in a plain but respectable style of architecture, and contains many superb apartments, ornamented with a small collection of pic-

tures by the best masters. The grounds are very extensive; and so exquisite has been the taste displayed in their improvement, that the former sterile and dreary level is now enriched with decorative varieties of wood and water, productive of an effect highly picturesque.

YORKSHIRE.

THIS is by far the largest county of England, its length from east to west being nearly 130 miles, and its breadth about 90. Yorkshire is bounded on the east by the German Ocean; on the south it lies contiguous to the counties of Chester, Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln; on the west its limits meet those of Cheshire, Lancashire, and Westmorland; and on the north it unites with the counties of Westmorland and Durham. This great extent of country is subject to three principal divisions, termed the North, the East, and the West Ridings. These three districts comprehend a great variety of natural features, involving, indeed, almost every characteristic by which the surface of England is distinguished.

The *North Riding* comprises the whole northern portion of the county, and presents a great dissimilarity of aspect. The face of the country along the coast, from Scarborough to Cleveland, is hilly and bold, the cliff being generally from sixty to a hundred and fifty feet high. From the cliff the country rises, in most places, very rapidly; and,

farther inland, successive hills rise one above the other, and form an elevated tract of moorlands. Amongst these dreary moors are many cultivated dales, some of which possess much fertility and beauty. The most striking natural object in this district is the peaked mountain termed *Rosebury Topping*, which rises to the height of 1488 feet above the level of the sea, and affords a well-known and useful landmark to mariners. The prospects from this elevation are extremely fine, particularly towards the west, the north-west, and the north. It has been observed, by an intelligent traveller, that "Rosebury Topping is certainly one of the "most remarkable features of nature of which this "island can boast; and an excursion to its summit "will amply reward the labour of the tourist."

The *East Riding* occupies the south-eastern part of the county, and is bounded on the south by the river Humber, and on the east by the German Ocean. This division of Yorkshire displays a great variety of aspect, but is less conspicuous for boldness of natural feature than other parts of the county. It comprises three districts, of dissimilar character: lofty ranges of hills, denominated the Wolds, extend nearly from the northern to the southern limits of the riding; and to the east and west lie two level tracts, of great extent.

The *West Riding*, in respect of extent, population, trade, and manufactures, is, assuredly, the

most important division of the county of York. The face of the country is very irregular; but, in general terms, this riding may be described as comprising three large districts, gradually varying from a level and marshy to a mountainous region.

Yorkshire is not distinguished for mineralogical productions, of eminent utility or value; but numerous branches of manufacture are cultivated, on an extensive scale, in several parts of the county.

The following are the principal rivers which add to the beauty of this province, whilst they conduce, in an important degree, to the facilities of commercial interchange. The Tees, the Swale, the Ure, denominated in the latter part of its progress, the Ouse and the Humber; the Derwent, and the Aire.

The objects of topographical discussion in this extensive county are so numerous, that we are compelled by our limits to select only such subjects as are of very prominent interest. It may, however, be necessary to premise, in this general notice of the county, that no division of England is more thickly spread with the seats of nobility and ancient gentry. Roman antiquities, of great curiosity, are discoverable in many parts; and in ecclesiastical architecture Yorkshire is unusually affluent. The Cathedral of York, and many other well-preserved structures, are objects of universal attraction. Dispersed throughout the recluse parts of

this variable district are numerous ruins of monastic piles, which impart to the surrounding scenery an air of grateful melancholy, and convey lessons of moral utility, more important than the mere gratification of a taste for the picturesque.

The CITY OF YORK, which constitutes the capital of the north of England, is uniformly believed to have risen from a settlement of the ancient Britons. By the Romans the rude castrametation of the subdued natives was converted into a regular fortified station; and under their auspices this place (known in our early annals by the name of *Eboracum*) attained a height of splendour nearly unequalled by any Roman-British city. It, indeed, displayed the same political lineaments as Rome, "the great mistress of the world," although on a smaller scale; it possessed an imperial palace and a tribunal; and was, in every respect, an epitome of the parent-city. In those days of transcendant military glory York formed the favourite residence in Britain of the Emperors Hadrian, Severus, and Constantius Chlorus. The Emperor Severus died here, whilst preparing for an expedition against the Scots; and three artificial mounts, still perceptible in the vicinity of the city, are traditionally, but perhaps fancifully, said to be connected with the solemnization of his funeral rites.

It may be remarked, in the present place, that York, although distinguished as an imperial resi-

dence, retains at the existing period few important vestiges of Roman splendour. Its palaces and temples are no more; and the only presumed traces of Roman antiquity are to be found in the arch of *Micklegate Bar*, and a multangular tower, with the south wall of the Mint-yard. The arch in Micklegate Bar is built entirely of millstone-grit, and forms a true segment of a circle, supporting a massy pile of turrets, in a more recent style of architecture. A great variety of Roman antiquities, including altars, funeral monuments, and votive tablets, have been found at different times, in digging the cellars, drains, and foundations for houses and other buildings.

Although York experienced a total annihilation of military splendour under the sway of the Anglo-Saxons, the city acquired, in those ages, a new advantage, of a more estimable character, in the foundation of its cathedral-church. It is not practicable to trace the annals of this northern metropolis through the various casualties to which it was exposed by the invasion of the Danes, and in the early ages of Norman ascendancy. We, therefore, pass onwards to days of a more prosperous character, and observe that, in the time of Henry the Second, the city had so far recovered from the effects of repeated calamity as to be ranked, in a levy of pecuniary assistance to the state, at one half the importance of London.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, York was the scene of several interviews between the kings of England and Scotland, and of many conventions or parliaments. During the civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, the inhabitants, as might be expected, took side with the former party; and this city was in those disastrous times frequently the rendezvous of armies, and the theatre on which were displayed the memorials of victorious vengeance. As a memorable instance of the latter description it may be remarked that, after the battle of Wakefield, fought A. D. 1460, in which Richard Duke of York met his fate, the head of that illustrious nobleman was placed on the top of Micklegate Bar, in a terrific association with those of many of his adherents.

In the equally calamitous intestine wars of the seventeenth century York also participated. In 1644 the city was besieged by the Parliamentarians, under Sir Thomas Fairfax and the Earls of Manchester and Leven. The fatal battle of Marston Moor led to the surrender of the place, after a defence conducted with eminent skill and bravery.

This venerable city, so highly distinguished in the general history of Great Britain, is nearly two miles and three-quarters in circuit, and presents, in nearly every direction, vestiges of military and ecclesiastical grandeur, which act as emphatical

monuments of its former importance. The domestic buildings are in general of an eligible character, with the exception of the suburbs, which are disagreeably mean, but are fortunately only thinly inhabited. The city is encompassed by walls, and is entered by four principal gates, of which Micklegate Bar, already noticed, is the most conspicuous. Several of the public edifices are of unusual interest, and are calculated to gratify not only the antiquary and the architect, but every examiner possessed of taste and feeling.

The *Cathedral* [238], often termed the *Minster*, was founded in the time of Edwin, King of Northumbria, about the year 627; but the fabric originating in the piety of that prince speedily sank to decay, and the most ancient part of the existing pile (with the exception of the Crypt) was erected in the reign of Henry the Third. The principal divisions may be justly said to present the noblest specimens extant of the architectural style that prevailed in the fourteenth century.

In viewing the exterior, our attention is first demanded to the west front, a splendid façade, not more conspicuous for plenitude of ornament than an attractive harmony of design. The buttresses are enriched with many niches, often containing statues; and are surmounted by two highly-decorated towers. The north and south sides agree, to the extent of the nave, with the style of the west

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York Minster.

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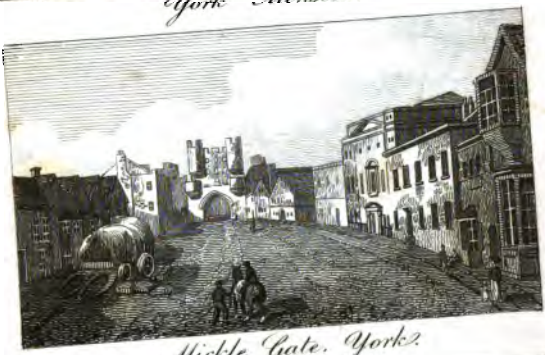

Mickle Gate, York.

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Castle Howard.

front. The transept is of an earlier date, and exhibits the mode of design denominated *Early English*, but still presents a superb object. The eastern part of the edifice exhibits the superior enrichments which became fashionable in the reign of Edward the Third.

The expectations created by an external view are surpassed on an examination of the interior. In the nave we behold, free from innovation, an instructive example of the style which prevailed about the middle of the fourteenth century. The capitals of the columns, and the knots of the groined ceiling, display much curious carving; and the windows, in common with those of nearly every part of the church, are sumptuously decorated with painted glass.

The tower constructed at the intersection of the nave and choir is open to a considerable height, thus constituting the fabric of perforated masonry denominated a lantern. The interior is worked in tiers of niches, surmounted by an open gallery of stone.

The choir assimilates with the nave in architectural character, mingled with a rising inclination towards excess in ornaments. The sublime effect of this part of the structure is greatly increased by the magnificent *East Window*, which is almost unrivalled in elegance of design and splendour of "storied glass."

The "long-drawn aisles" of this august building acquire an additional interest from numerous sepulchral monuments, which are often worthy of deliberate notice, on account of the worth, or historical importance of the person commemorated; and in other instances afford curious examples of the state of the arts in respective ages.

Far beneath even the dreary tracts allotted to the dead, is a spacious *Crypt*, which subterranean part of the cathedral is worked under the eastern portion of the choir. The whole of this gloomy apartment is in the Anglo-Norman mode of architecture.

The *Chapter House* is proverbially termed the "fairest flower" of the pointed style; and it may be safely asserted, that the peculiar magnificence of English architecture has been rarely displayed in a more brilliant light, when exercised upon a contracted scale.

Besides the cathedral, York contains twenty-one churches within the walls, and three in the suburbs. The following may be mentioned as chiefly entitled to notice:—All Saints, in North-street; St. Mary's, in Castlegate; All Hallows, in the Pavement (the north side of which is built out of the ruins of ancient Eboracum); St. Dennis, on the south side of Walmgate;—and St. Margaret, on the north side of Walmgate, remarkable for a porch adorned with some curious sculpture.

Amongst decayed religious structures, the *Abbey of St. Mary* demands primary notice. This magnificent monastery is said to have been founded in the year 1078; and the buildings having been destroyed by fire in the reign of Stephen, were speedily restored, with added splendour, under the direction of Simon de Warwick, then abbot. The existing ruins present the remains of the structure then erected, and comprise a small part of the Abbey Church, and some spacious stone vaults.

On entering the city by Micklegate Bar [239] is seen, to the right, an ancient gateway, which was formerly the portal to the priory of the Holy Trinity.

The *Castle* of York is believed to have been erected by William the Conqueror, on the site of a fortress of unknown antiquity. The building fell to decay in subsequent ages, but was restored in the reign of Richard the Third. When finally abandoned as a noble and fortified residence, it was used as a county-prison; but the whole outworks of the fabric were taken down in the early part of the eighteenth century, when the present gaol was erected on the site. This dreary building is sufficiently commodious, and the unhappy inmates are managed with exemplary care and discretion. Adjoining the prison is a lofty artificial mount, surrounded by a deep ditch. On the summit stands an ancient tower, of a circular form,

called *Clifford's Tower*, which is apparently of Norman architecture, and was probably the keep of a fortress raised by William the First.

The public buildings of York, connected with municipal affairs or purposes of amusement, are suited to the respectability of the city. The *New County Hall* is a fine structure of the Ionic order, completed in 1777. The *Guildhall* has lately undergone some repairs and improvements; and the *Mansion House*, appropriated to the official residence of the Lord Mayor, is handsome and commodious. The *Theatre* is secondary only to Bath, in regard to provincial places of histrionic entertainment. The elegant assembly-rooms were erected after designs of the Earl of Burlington, and form a conspicuous ornament of the city.

In the vicinity of York are several embellished villas; but the attention of the topographical examiner will unavoidably be directed, in neglect of objects so usual in the vicinity of a large town, to *Marston Moor*, distant from the city about six miles. On this memorable tract of "moorland" was fought, in the year 1644, that signal battle between Cromwell and the royal forces, which threw the first serious cloud over the views of the ill-guided Charles the First. Now that the fervour of party has subsided, most persons will agree that the following remarks on this battle possess at least as much good sense as poetical merit:—

"——— On Marston-heath
"Met, front to front, the ranks of death;
"Flourish'd the trumpets fierce, and now
"Fir'd was each eye, and flush'd each brow;
"On either side loud clamours ring,
"'God and the Cause!—God and the King!'
"Right English all, they rush'd to blows,
"*With nought to win, and all to lose!*"

SCOTT'S *Rokeby*.

CASTLE HOWARD [240], the spacious mansion of the Earl of Carlisle, was built in the eighteenth century, after the designs of Sir John Vanbrugh. This building has a more extensive line of front than the national erection of *Blenheim*, and evinces the same architectural character. The component parts are small, and loaded with ornament; but the efforts at originality are less happy in this edifice than in the Oxfordshire palace. The suite of state-apartments is extremely grand; but it is remarked that the height of these rooms in general exceeds a graceful harmony of proportions. The mansion is enriched with a very noble collection of paintings, statues, busts, and other works of art. The extensive park is laid out with correct taste. The eye is there gratified with a beautiful intermixture of wood and lawn, and the distant scenery is every where rich and full of pleasing variety. Amongst the artificial ornaments of the grounds will be noticed a mausoleum of unusual magnitude. This building is circular, and surrounded with a

handsome colonnade of Doric pillars. Over the vault is an elegant circular chapel. The height of the structure is ninety feet.

The small town of KIRBY-MOORSIDE is chiefly deserving of notice in the present work, as the spot on which George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, breathed his last. It is well known that this nobleman had dissipated the greater part of his large patrimonial inheritance. He was surprised by sickness whilst pursuing the pleasures of the chace in Yorkshire, and died in a house situated in the market-place, which building is still remaining. The following descriptive lines, by Pope, are introduced principally with a view of correcting them, as to matter of fact:—

"In the worst inn's worst room, with mat half hung,
"The floors of plaster and the walls of dung,
"On once a flock-bed, but repair'd with straw,
"With tape-tied curtains never meant to draw;
"The George and Garter dangling from that bed
"Where tawdry yellow strove with dirty red,
"Great Villiers lies—Alas! how chang'd from him,
"That life of pleasure and that soul of whim!
"Gallant and gay in Cliefden's proud alcove,
"The bower of wanton Shrewsbury and love;
"Or just as gay at council in a ring
"Of mimic statesmen and their merry king.
"No wit to flatter, left of all his store,
"No fool to laugh at, which he valued more.
"There, victor of his health, of fortune, friends,
"And fame, this lord of useless thousands ends."

It is observed by a recent writer that, in these celebrated lines, "Pope has either used a poetical "license, or been misinformed, respecting the "house where this profligate nobleman expired, "as there is no tradition of its having ever been an "inn. Pope also mentions 'the floors of plaster,' "but the room in which he is said to have died is "a chamber: the same deal floor remains; and it "is still shewn to the curious."

The ruins of BYLAND ABBEY are situated near the foot of *Cambe Hill*, on a recluse spot well suited to the gloomy habits of monastic life. This religious house was founded in the year 1177, by Roger de Mowbray, and appears to have been a structure of great extent and considerable splendour.

The town of SCARBOROUGH is situated in the recess of a beautiful bay, on the borders of the German Ocean. The clustered buildings rise from the shore in the form of an amphitheatre, and present a picturesque appearance on the concave slope of the semicircular bay. The principal features in the situation and scenery are thus delineated by the pen of Mr. Hinderwell, who has produced a very able history of this town. "To the east stand "the ruins of the ancient castle, whose venerable "walls adorn the summit of a lofty promontory. "To the south is a vast expanse of the ocean, a "scene of the highest magnificence, where fleets

" of ships are frequently passing. The recess of
" the tide leaves a spacious area upon the sands,
" delicately smooth and firm, equally convenient
" for exercise and sea-bathing. The refreshing
" gales from the ocean, and the shade of the
" neighbouring hills, give an agreeable tempera-
" ture to the air during the sultry heats of summer,
" and produce a grateful serenity."

Scarborough has attracted considerable notice as a watering place, and assuredly the town affords some peculiar advantages to the valetudinarian. The principal streets in the upper town are spacious and well-paved, and the houses are in general commodious. On the cliff have been lately erected many handsome domestic buildings, which are unrivalled, on this part of the British coast, for beauty of situation. In front is a fine terrace, elevated near one hundred feet above the level of the sands, and commanding a variety of delightful prospects. The public gardens, assembly-room, and theatre, are on an appropriate and liberal scale.

The mineral waters of Scarborough, which have greatly conduced towards rendering the town a place of fashionable resort, were first brought into notice about the year 1620. The spas consist of two wells, one being chalybeate aud the other saline. The Spa-house is situated on the sea-shore, at the foot of the cliff. This place is ex-

tremely well suited to bathing, the water being pure, and the sands clear, smooth, and level.

The *Castle* of Scarborough was built in the reign of Stephen, by William, Earl of Albemarle and Holderness. King Henry the Second seized this fortress, and greatly enlarged the buildings.—Throughout succeeding ages the castle remained vested in the crown, and formed the theatre of several memorable transactions. It first experienced a regular siege in the time of Edward the Second, when Piers Gaveston, the worthless favourite of that king, was assailed by the Earls of Pembroke and Warren, and was compelled to surrender. In the civil wars of the seventeenth century the fortress was twice besieged and taken by the Parliamentarian forces. In the year 1745, the government, convinced of the important situation of this building, bestowed on its decaying walls some slight repairs. Since that period two batteries have been made on the southern, and one on the northern side of the castle-yard.

The ruins of this ponderous structure are situated on a lofty promontory, elevated more than 300 feet above the level of the sea. The keep, or citadel, and parts of the embattled wall and attached towers are still remaining, magnificent even in desolation.

The *Parish Church* formerly belonged to a Cistertian monastery, and is still a structure of con-

siderable interest, although diminished in extent and grandeur.

The promontory termed FLAMBOROUGH HEAD is the most distinguished and curious object on the coast of Yorkshire. The stupendous cliffs here rise, at their most lofty point, to the perpendicular height of one hundred and fifty yards. The cliffs are composed of limestone, of a snowy whiteness; and at the bottom are several immense caverns, formed by the turbulent action of the ocean, or some unknown cause, of distant origin. The neighbouring coast, to a considerable extent, presents numerous combinations of sublime and beautiful scenery.

BEVERLEY, a considerable market-town in the East Riding, is situated at the foot of the Wolds, and possesses some local advantages which render it the favourite residence of many private and respectable families. The market-place is spacious, and is one of the most eligible in the county. The streets are in general broad, and the houses large and well-built. The contiguous tract of elevated country towards the west commands some fine prospects, in which the port of Hull, rising in the southern point of the horizon, forms an interesting object.

The credible history of this town commences in the early part of the eighth century, at which time St. John of Beverley, Archbishop of York, founded

here a church and monastery, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. The buildings of this religious institution were destroyed by the Danes, A. D. 867; but were restored, with additional splendour, by the Anglo-Saxon king Athelstan, in the tenth century. Several subsequent monarchs, including William the Conqueror, honoured this place with particular notice; and under auspices so potent the town progressively rose to high consideration.

The *Church* of Beverley, often called the *Minster* (a term which appears to have been anciently used to distinguish the class of buildings inferior in magnitude to cathedrals, but of greater importance than ordinary parochial churches), is a superb edifice, deserving of attentive investigation. The west end is adorned with two lofty towers, and the interior of the choir is particularly fine. Beverley contains another church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a large and handsome structure.

HULL, or KINGSTON-UPON-HULL, is situated on the banks of the river from which it derives its name, and is a town of great commercial importance. The history of this place is not traced to an origin more remote than the time of Edward the First, in whose reign the harbour was formed. In honour of this sovereign Hull was distinguished by the name of *Kingston*, or *King's-town*.

The annals of this port are chiefly connected with the successful procedure of commerce until

the seventeenth century, during the civil wars of which era the town experienced unusual severities of fortune. At the commencement of those unhappy disputes the inhabitants were divided in opinion between the contending parties, and it was not without difficulty that the Parliamentarians obtained the first possession of a post so important, which then formed the chief national depository of military stores. They were not, however, suffered to remain long unmolested. On the 23d of April, 1642, a memorable epoch in the history of Hull, and in that of the country at large, the King, attended by numerous servants, and many gentlemen of Yorkshire, appeared before that entrance of the town termed Beverley Gate, and demanded admission. This was refused; and the King retired, after having remained before the walls for several hours. On this occasion took place the first decided act of hostility between the royal party and that acting under the name of the Parliament. In the same year the town was besieged by the indignant sovereign; and about the end of July several persons were killed in a sally made by the garrison. The spot on which they fell is mournfully curious, as the scene of the first bloodshed in this lamentable contest. Eventually the siege was raised by the ill-fated Charles, and the place remained in the hands of the Parliament throughout the civil war.

The foreign commerce of this port is very considerable, and it is highly worthy of remark that the merchants of Hull were the first in England who fitted out vessels for the whale-fishery. These ships quitted the British coast about the year 1598. Independent of Greenland, the foreign trade of Hull is chiefly directed to the Baltic; but extensive interchanges are also effected with America, and the southern countries of Europe. The inland trade, facilitated by canal navigation, is said to be greater than that of any other port in England.

The town was formerly encompassed with fortified walls; but those formidable bulwarks are now entirely destroyed, and have happily given place to docks filled with ships, and warehouses for the reception of merchandize.

Since the demolition of the walls the town is greatly extended in dimensions, and many of the houses, belonging to opulent traders, are at once commodious and elegant. The domestic buildings are almost uniformly composed of brick, and are in general laid out with great regularity.

The public structures are respectable, but not conspicuous for architectural grandeur. The *Churches* are three in number. That dedicated to the Holy Trinity is a spacious and stately fabric, chiefly in the pointed style of the fourteenth century. The plan is cruciform, with an ornamental tower rising from the centre. The monuments are

numerous, and over the communion-table is a painting by Parmentier, representing the last supper. The charitable institutions correspond in number and magnitude with the opulence of this great commercial town, and are subject to judicious regulations.

The small but ancient town of HOWDEN is situated near the northern banks of the river Ouse. At this place are the remains of a palace, formerly belonging to the bishops of Durham. The edifice is supposed to have been erected by Bishop Skirlaw, in the fourteenth century. The venerable ruins are now defaced with an intermixture of modern building, and are used as a farm-house.

The *Church* [241] of Howden forms its principal attraction, in the esteem of the curious visitor. This church was formerly collegiate, and was originally a fabric of great extent and magnificence. The collegiate establishment was dissolved in the reign of Edward the Sixth; and as the revenues for the support of the building were then bestowed on secular persons, the choir fell gradually into decay, and at length became so dilapidated and unsafe, that, in the seventeenth century the nave was fitted up for the celebration of divine service. In the year 1696 the groined roof of the chancel fell to the ground, and the whole eastern part of the church now exhibits a ruinous appearance.

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Dropping Well, Knaresboro'.

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Howden Church.

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Wressle Castle.

The structure is in the form of a cross, surmounted, in its central division, by an elegant square tower, displaying a combination of the circular and pointed arch. The nave is 105 feet in length, and is in a light and beautiful style of architecture. Adjoining the south side of the choir is a *Chapter-House*, of octangular shape, inferior in dimensions to the Chapter-House at York, but bearing a considerable resemblance to that admirable edifice. The design is extremely superb; and, even in its present decayed state, this building (which was erected by Bishop Skirlaw in the fourteenth century) is considered one of the finest specimens of English architecture in the kingdom.

Roger de Hoveden, chaplain to Henry the Second, and one of the principal historians of the thirteenth century, was a native of the above town

WRESSLE CASTLE [242], distant about four miles from Howden, is seated on the east bank of the river Derwent. The surrounding country is flat and undesirable; but this deficiency was of little account when the site of the castle was chosen: our ancestors, in the middle ages, were nearly insensible to the charms of landscape scenery, which greatly depend for general sympathy on a cultivation of the arts of poetry and painting. The building was probably commenced early in the fourteenth century, and long constituted a residence of the Percys, Earls of Northumberland.

On a partition of the property belonging to that noble family, about seventy years back, the Yorkshire estates, including the lordship and castle of Wressle, fell to the Earl of Egremont, in whose descendant, the present Earl, they are still vested.

In this feudal mansion the ancient Earls of Northumberland displayed a magnificence scarcely inferior to that of the royal court; and a very minute account of their establishment, and its daily expenses, is preserved to posterity in the curious publication entitled the "Northumberland Household Book." The building suffered greatly during the civil wars in the time of Charles the First, and was subsequently dismantled by order of Parliament. We regret to state, that the injuries then inflicted were followed by the ravages of accidental fire, some few years back; and ruinous walls are now the only remains of a mansion that once formed the boast of its neighbourhood. Such consolation as is afforded in the following lines is all that can be applied to this melancholy scene:

> "Yet though deserted and in ruin grey,
> "The suns of morn upon thy relics stream,
> "And evening yields thy wall her blushing ray,
> "And Cynthia visits with her silver beam."

The town of *Knaresborough* [243] is beautifully situated on the banks of the river Nid, which flows through a romantic valley at the base of precipitous

rocks. The town is in general well-built, and the inhabitants derive much advantage from manufactories of linen and cotton. The corn-market held at this place is believed to be one of the largest in Yorkshire.

Here are the remains of a castle, built by Serlo de Burgh, one of the adventurers who entered England with William the Conqueror. This fortress was used as the temporary prison of King Richard the Second, after his expulsion from the throne. A part of the ruins, still called the "King's Chamber," is supposed to have constituted the place of his confinement. In the civil wars of the seventeenth century the castle was garrisoned by the royalists; but was captured in the year 1644. The ruins comprise part of the keep, or principal tower, and afford several curious specimens of ancient military architecture in distinct parts, whilst the general display is highly impressive and picturesque.

The vicinity of Knaresborough affords much fine scenery, rendered additionally attractive by some natural curiosities. The most distinguished of these peculiarities of nature is the celebrated "*Dropping*," [244] or "*Petrifying Well*," situated in the long walk on the banks of the Nid, opposite to the ruins of the castle. This remarkable spring rises in a steep declivity, at the foot of a limestone rock. After running about twenty yards towards

the river, it spreads itself over the top of a rock, from whence it trickles down in above thirty places, "dropping very fast, and creating a musical kind "of tinkling, owing, most probably, to the conca-"vity of the rock, which projecting in a circular "curve from the bottom to the top, its brow "overhangs nearly fifteen feet." The spring is supposed to emit about twenty gallons in every minute. Dr. Short observes, that the water "abounds with fine particles, which it deposits "only when in a languid motion, and leaves an "incrustation on the bodies that it meets with, in "trickling slowly amidst the massy obstacles that "impede its course."

The large and celebrated village of HARROWGATE is situated in the forest of *Knaresborough*, at the distance of three miles from that town. The notoriety of this place proceeds from its chalybeate and sulphureous waters, united with an acknowledged salubrity of air. The village is subject to two divisions, termed High and Low Harrowgate; the former containing the chalybeate springs, and the latter the sulphureous waters. The situation of High Harrowgate being an elevated plain, considerably higher than the rock on which Knaresborough stands, is extremely pleasant, and commands an extensive prospect of the distant country, finely interspersed with towns, villages, and country-

Knaresborough.

Fountains Abbey.

Harewood.

seats. The sulphureous waters are very offensive to the smell and taste, but are beneficial in scrophulous and cutaneous disorders.

Ripon, a considerable market town, is situated on rising ground, near the confluence of the rivers Ure and Skell. The buildings are chiefly disposed in narrow and crooked lanes, alike unfavourable to the beauty of the town and the health of the inhabitants. The church is collegiate, and is a large and venerable structure, built in the form of a cross. At the west end are two uniform towers, each 110 feet in height; and from the centre rises a third tower, of august proportions. The entire length of the church, or the interior, is 270 feet; and the different parts display many beauties and peculiarities of ancient architecture. The choir is richly fitted up with stalls for the dignitaries, and the great east window is filled with stained glass, executed by Peckitt of York, about the year 1792. The sepulchral monuments are numerous, and in several instances are of considerable interest.

In the vicinity of Ripon are several elegant seats, amongst which *Studley Royal* and *Newby Hall* appear to demand the first attention of the visitor.

Fountains Abbey [245] was founded in the year 1132, for monks of the Cistertian order. The first buildings of this extensive monastery were destroyed by fire; and the structure which now remains, although in ruins, was chiefly erected be-

tween the years 1204 and 1245. The benefactions were numerous, and popes and kings seemed to emulate each other in granting privileges and immunities. Thus favoured, the Abbey of Fountains became one of the richest and most flourishing monasteries in these parts of the kingdom. The buildings originally covered nearly twelve acres of ground, and the vestiges of the extensive structure abound, at the present day, in objects of great curiosity.

The ruins are attached to the pleasure-grounds of *Fountains Hall*, the seat of William Aislabie, Esq. and have been said to present the most perfect remains of a monastic edifice now to be seen in England. A recent investigator observes, that "no depredation has been wantonly committed on "the sacred pile: time alone has brought it to its "present state: it has fallen by a gentle decay, "without any violent convulsion. Built in the "most elegant style of Gothic architecture, the "tower and all the walls are yet standing, the roof "alone being gone to ruin."

Harewood House [246], the splendid seat of Lord Harewood, is distant about six miles from the town of Leeds. This mansion was erected by the late Lord Harewood, who laid the foundation in the year 1760. The building is of the Corinthian order, and is composed of a very fine sort of stone, taken from a quarry near the place. The principal apartments are finished with great magnificence,

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New Hall.

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Skipton Castle.

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St. George's Church, Doncaster.

and many of the ceilings are painted by Zucchi, and other artists of celebrity. The gallery and great drawing-room are much admired for costly elegance of arrangement. The fine gardens and pleasure-grounds were laid out by Browne, and are well suited to the dignity of the mansion.

The contiguous *Church* of Harewood is a venerable structure, highly worthy of attention. In the choir are six altar-tombs of white marble, with whole-length figures, representing ancient owners of the manor. Amongst these will be viewed, with sentiments of no ordinary reverence, the tomb of Judge Gascoigne, who being insulted on the bench by the Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry the Fifth, did not scruple to commit him to prison.

On the brow of a neighbouring lofty hill are the remains of the ancient baronial *Castle* of Harewood, still comprising the grand portal, which is sufficiently high to admit a man on horseback, and was formerly defended by a portcullis.

About one mile to the north of Otley is NEWHALL [247], the seat of Thomas Clifton, Esq. In contradiction to the name by which it is known, this is a very interesting specimen of ancient domestic architecture. After passing through several hands, this mansion became the residence of Edward Fairfax, the poet, who flourished in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First, and who died at this place in the year 1632.

The town of SKIPTON [248] is distinguished by a *Castle*, said to have been first erected shortly after the Conquest, by Robert de Romeli, lord of the Honour of Skipton. The fortress was afterwards possessed by the Lords de Clifford, so greatly renowned in many pages of the military annals of Britain. In the civil wars of the seventeenth century, the town and castle were garrisoned by a body of the king's troops, but were subdued, after a vigorous siege, in 1645. In the following year the castle was rendered untenable as a fortress, but has ever since constituted a family residence, and is now a neglected seat of the Earl of Thanet. This edifice commands a pleasing prospect of the town and vale, terminated by ranges of lofty hills. The varied charms of a view so extensive will be duly appreciated, when we observe that the *Vale of Skipton* is supposed to be one of the finest and most fertile in England.

HALIFAX is a considerable trading town, situated near the Lancashire border of the county. The town is seated on the declivity of a gentle eminence, and is nearly three quarters of a mile in length, but the breadth is narrow and irregular. The houses are in general well-built, and are partly of stone and partly of brick. It has been observed, that "the mixture of brick and stone buildings forms a "variegated picture; and the great number of "small inclosures, surrounded with stone walls, in

" the vallies and on the declivities of the hills, re-
" semble an assemblage of gardens; but the land-
" scape is almost entirely destitute of hedges and
" wood."

This place constitutes the principal market for *Stuffs*, and many of the inhabitants are extensively engaged in the cloth and cotton trade. As an instance of the progressive increase of population in consequence of the cultivation of manufactures, it may be curious to observe, that about the middle of the fifteenth century Halifax consisted of no more than thirteen houses; but, in the year 1566, the number was increased to 520; and since that time it is considerably more than trebled. The parish, or vicarage, is said to be nearly as large as the whole county of Rutland; a sufficient proof, if others were wanting, that the residents in this district were formerly few, and widely scattered. The church is a spacious structure, in the pointed style of various ages.

The history of Halifax does not afford many events of importance, but the ancient privilege of penal infliction, termed the *Gibbet Law*, is too curious a feature to be omitted. We are told, in Bentley's annals of this town, that " the inhabitants
" within the forest of Hardwick had a custom, from
" time immemorial, that if a felon were taken
" within their liberty, with goods stolen out, or
" within, the liberty of the said forest, to the

"value of thirteen pence halfpenny, he should, "after three markets, or meeting days, within the "town of Halifax, next after his apprehension, "and being condemned, be taken to the gibbet, "and have his head cut off from his body." The execution always took place on the chief market day, and the engine of punishment exactly resembled the *guillotine* lately erected in France. The offender could not be condemned unless taken within the liberty noticed above; and if he had stolen a horse, or other animal, the end of the rope on which the axe depended was fastened to the beast, which being driven forwards, pulled out the pin of the machine, and caused the instrument of death to descend with instantaneous velocity. The last execution in this mode took place during the interregnum in the seventeenth century.

The following eminent persons were natives of Halifax: Dr. John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury, born 1630; Sir Henry Saville, a distinguished writer, and a munificent patron of literature, born 1549; David Hartley, M.A. a celebrated physician, and ingenious author, born in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

The town of Leeds is situated on the north bank of the Aire, and covers an eminence gently rising from that river. On the eastern side the town falls into a deep valley, through which runs a rivulet, having on its banks a great number of

dying-houses. This is one of the chief manufacturing and trading towns of Yorkshire, and the buildings partake of the dissimilarity usual in such places. The domestic buildings are almost entirely composed of brick, and those in the principal streets are in general commodious, and sometimes handsome. But, in the neighbourhood of the manufactories and warehouses, the streets and lanes are irregular and dirty, the houses ill-contrived and mean. Cloth forms the staple manufacture; but sacking, canvas, linen, and thread, are also made in considerable quantities. The prosperity of Leeds does not, however, entirely proceed from its own manufactures. This town forms the principal mart of the woollen trade in the West Riding, and the manufactories which supply its market with the nominal cloth of Leeds, are scattered over many contiguous villages.

Leeds is a town of great antiquity, and its foundation is usually attributed to the early Britons. In the time of the Anglo-Saxons it was distinguished as the theatre of a sanguinary and decisive battle, in which Penda, King of Mercia, was slain, together with the flower of his army. Shortly after the Norman Conquest, a strong fortress was erected here, of which no vestiges now remain. This castle was besieged by King Stephen, in the year 1139; and the building afterwards afforded a temporary place of confinement to the imprudent and

unfortunate Richard the Second. In the civil wars of the seventeenth century the town was taken, after an assault which lasted about two hours, by the Parliamentarian army, under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax. This action took place in the year 1643.

Although many of the private houses in Leeds are well suited to the opulence of their respective owners, the public buildings do not display any great degree of magnificence. The churches are five in number. The building dedicated to St. Peter is a venerable pile, in the pointed style of architecture. The plan is cruciform, with a tower, ninety-six feet in height, rising from the central division. The nave presents an unusual mode of distribution, being divided into four aisles, which run from the transept to the west end. The church of St. John was erected in the seventeenth century, and the other religious structures are of a modern date.

The *General Infirmary* is a large and handsome building of brick, founded in the year 1768.

The public edifices connected with the commercial pursuits of the town are of a character highly respectable.

The *Mixed-Cloth Hall*, erected in 1758, is a quadrangular building, enclosing an open area, and is divided into six covered streets, each of which contains two rows of stands.

The *White-Cloth Hall*, built in 1775, is also quadrangular in form, and is divided into five covered streets, provided with stands for the dealers in cloth. At both the Halls a cloth-market is held two days in every week.

The Theatre and Assembly-rooms are on a scale quite equal with those of other English towns of similar importance.

The environs of Leeds are extremely pleasant. The vale of the Aire, extending both eastward and westward to a great distance, is one of the finest features of the country; and the banks of the river, about four miles and a half from the town, are enriched by *Temple Newsome*, a seat of the Marquis of Hertford, in which is deposited a fine collection of pictures.

The beautiful vale of the Aire acquires an additional charm, in the esteem of the antiquary, from the ruins of KIRKSTALL ABBEY, which monastic structure was founded by Henry de Lacy, in the early part of the twelfth century. The decaying pile occupies a secluded and romantic situation on the banks of the lucid Aire, and presents extensive traces of former splendour. The church was built in the form of a cross, and its mouldering aisles exhibit some curious specimens of architecture, in the declining Norman and early English styles. The refectory, and some other domestic parts of the monastery, may be plainly distinguished.

The grand mass of ivy, which covers many of the walls from the ground to the summit, adds much to the pictorial beauty of these ruins.

The town of WAKEFIELD is well built, and is agreeably situated on the side of a hill sloping gently to the river Calder. The *Parochial Church* is a capacious structure, usually said to possess the highest spire of any church in Yorkshire. This building is in the pointed style, but many parts were re-edified in the eighteenth century. There is also a *New Church*, of considerable elegance, situated in an eligible part of the town, and surrounded by domestic buildings, which are greatly admired for excellence of plan and beauty of site. At the south-east entrance of Wakefield is a handsome stone bridge over the Calder, which was erected in the reign of Edward the Third, and affords a fine specimen of the masonry of that age. Towards the centre of the bridge is a chapel, built by Edward the Fourth, in memory of his father, Richard Duke of York, and those of his party who fell in the battle named after this place. This fabric is now used as a reading-room by the principal inhabitants.

The environs of Wakefield are rich in natural beauty and fertility. About two miles to the south of the town is *Sandal*, a considerable village, famous for its ancient Castle, which was an occasional baronial residence of Richard Duke of York,

who is well known to have fallen in battle before its walls. The action took place on the last day of December, 1460, and the spot on which the Duke is supposed to have fallen was formerly denoted by a cross. But this curious relic was destroyed by the fanatics in the civil wars of the seventeenth century.

SHEFFIELD, a large manufacturing town, is finely situated on an eminence, at the conflux of the rivers Sheaf and Don. The streets are in general regular and handsome, but the smoke arising from numerous forges employed in the manufactories communicates a tinge to the buildings; and the town, although opulent, and not deficient in the elegancies of life, is chiefly estimable in a commercial point of view. The public structures are calculated for utility rather than ornament; and have, therefore, little claim on investigation from persons not engaged in the business of the town.

The *Churches* are three in number. Trinity Church is a venerable fabric, containing a sepulchral chapel in which are the monuments of four Earls of Shrewsbury, of the family of Talbot. The earliest memorial is to George, the fourth earl, who died in the year 1538.

On the eastern side of the river Sheaf is an Hospital, founded by Henry, Earl of Norwich, in 1670. Edward, Duke of Norfolk, gave to this charitable institution the sum of £1000, which was applied to

the erection of a *Chapel*. The building is of an octangular shape, and is calculated to contain a large congregation. The General Infirmary is a spacious and well-designed fabric, commenced in the year 1793.

Sheffield has long been celebrated for the manufactory of different articles of cutlery. In a poem by Chaucer, written in the reign of Edward the Third, occurs the following line, which proves that the place was then famous for the sale of knives :—

"A *Sheffield Whittle* bare he in his hose."

To the manufacture of edged-tools of every kind is now added that of hardware and plated goods. The abundance of coal found in the neighbourhood is greatly favourable to the numerous manufactures, and much ingenious machinery is used with unequivocal advantage.

At the distance of four miles from the town of *Rotheram* is WENTWORTH HOUSE, the seat of Earl Fitzwilliam. This magnificent structure consists of a centre and two wings, and is above two hundred yards in length. The principal rooms are of noble dimensions, and are fitted up with great elegance. The Hall and Gallery are particularly admired. The ceiling of the latter apartment is supported by Ionic columns, and the intervening niches are ornamented with fine marble statues.

The works of art contained in this princely residence are equally numerous and estimable. The paintings comprise many works of the best ancient masters, but no individual piece has attracted so much notice as the celebrated picture of Lord Strafford and his secretary, by Vandyck. In the Museum are reposited some fine antiques.

The park consists of more than 1500 acres, and is richly ornamented with wood and water. In different parts of these extensive grounds are decorative buildings, well designed, and placed with accurate taste. The most conspicuous artificial object is a *Mausoleum*, erected by the present Earl in honour of his uncle, the late Marquis of Rockingham. This august fabric is ninety feet in height, and consists of three divisions. The first is a square Doric basement; the second story is of the same form, but of the Ionic order, each of the sides opening into an arch, and disclosing a beautiful sarcophagus standing in the centre. The whole is surmounted by a cupola, supported by twelve Ionic columns. The interior of the lower story contains a marble statue of the Marquis, in his robes, executed by Nolekins. On the pedestal are laudatory inscriptions, in prose and verse.

In the vicinity of *Sandbeck*, the seat of the Earl of Scarborough, are the venerable ruins of ROCHE ABBEY. This monastery belonged to the Cistertian order, and was founded about the year 1147.

The stone of which it is composed was dug from a neighbouring quarry, and is well known by the name of *Roche Abbey stone*. In whiteness and delicacy of texture it is not equalled by any other kind of freestone in the kingdom, but is not of a durable character. The ruins are seated in a deep and narrow vale, and chiefly consist of parts of the nave of the church. The surrounding scenery was embellished by Brown, the landscape-gardener, under the direction of the late Earl of Scarborough. It is possible, however, that many persons will agree with Mr. Gilpin, who presents the following remarks in his Observations on Picturesque Beauty:—"This is assuredly a very beautiful scene, "but I fear it is too magnificent, and too artificial, "an appendage to be in unison with the ruins of "an abbey. A ruin should be surrounded by "neglect, solitude, and desolation."

Doncaster is agreeably situated on the south bank of the river Don, and is unquestionably one of the most eligible and genteel towns in the north of England. No manufactures of importance are cultivated at this place, but the inhabitants enjoy a beneficial and increasing trade with the numerous opulent families in the neighbourhood, and the country people who frequent the periodical markets from a considerable distance. It may be added that the corporation of Doncaster possesses a revenue of £7,000 *per annum*, which is liberally

expended for the comfort and emolument of the residents.

The town is in general well built, and contains many substantial, commodious, and ornamental dwellings. The public buildings are in several instances calculated to excite the deliberate attention of the topographer and traveller.

The *Parochial Church* [249], dedicated to St. George, is a superb structure, in the pointed style of architecture, and occupies the site of a castle, supposed to have been erected shortly after the Norman conquest. The elegant tower is 141 feet in height, and is usually described as having been raised in the reign of Henry the Third; but, from the character of architecture, we may safely conclude this part of the building to be of a date much less ancient. The interior of the church is extremely beautiful, and contains several objects of some antiquarian celebrity, amongst which we must not omit to notice the Font, which is said to have formerly borne the date of 1061; but the figures are now obliterated. The design and execution, however, sufficiently prove its high antiquity.

The *Mansion House*, for the use of the mayor, is a magnificent structure, nearly in the centre of the town. The foundation was laid in the year 1744, and the expense of the building, which

amounted to £8,000, was defrayed by the Corporation.

The markets are well supplied, and are held in spacious, but rather irregular areas.

The Theatre is commodious; and the races held annually in the vicinity of the town are considered as the chief meeting of the kind in this part of England. On the race-ground is a handsome stand for the accommodation of company, built at the expense of the Corporation.

This is a town of great antiquity, and is believed to have constituted a Roman station. It is, however, remarkable, that few decisive vestiges of the Romans have been discovered, with the exception of a votive altar, found in digging a cellar, in the year 1781.

We cannot conclude our notice of this place in words more appropriate than those of Dr. Miller, the historian of Doncaster: "From the beauty of "the town, the salubrity of the air, the goodness "of the roads, the delightful promenades, and "other advantages, Doncaster may, perhaps, vie "with any town in the kingdom, as a most de-"sirable residence, not only for the affluent, but "more particularly for persons of small fortune." The neighbourhood is adorned by several ancient family mansions and handsome villas.

The village of CONISBROUGH, distant six miles

from the above town, is finely situated on the summit of a hill, which commands extensive and diversified views over the river Don, and a luxuriant tract of neighbouring country. Independent of the attraction arising from natural scenery, the village demands notice on account of a ruinous castle, which forms one of the most curious remains of antiquity in this part of England.

The *Castle of Conisbrough*, in its present state, consists of the keep, or citadel, and parts of an attached wall, which surrounded the ballium, or court, and was flanked with round towers. The interior of the keep is circular, and divided into three stories, or floors. Beneath the lowest of these is a dreary apartment, which appears to have been formerly used as a dungeon. On the outside are massy turrets, or buttresses, nearly ninety feet in height from the ground. The only entrance is by a flight of stone steps, on the top of which is a small square room, communicating by a narrow staircase through the wall with the middle floor.

The date at which this singular structure was erected is entirely unknown, and fanciful authors have not scrupled to ascribe the foundation to an early age of Anglo-Saxon dominion. Writers more cautious suppose it to have been built by William, the first Earl of Warren, to whom the contiguous estate was given by the Conqueror. Various parts present fertile subjects of speculation to the anti-

quary; but the fabric affords little gratification to the admirer of the picturesque. Unlike many ancient edifices described in previous sections of this work, the Castle of Conisbrough is quite destitute of those historical anecdotes which render even masses of stone the source of literary amusement and moral instruction. So profound are the shades thrown over its decaying walls by the hand of Time!

END OF VOL. II.

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